

Jordan Times

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Libya said to renew Lockerbie offer

TUNIS (R) — Libya has renewed an offer to permit trial of suspects in the Lockerbie jet bombing but still insists they be tried outside the United States or Britain, a Libyan official said Friday. "There is new vision and there is an offer... they (the United States) have not yet responded," Belqacem Al Zwai, Libya's ambassador to Morocco and one of Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi's closest aides, told reporters in Tunis. Asked whether the offer reiterates Libya's offer for a trial abroad, he said: "Yes, (a trial) in Europe, in any country in the world, except in the United States and Britain." The United States and Britain have insisted that Libya hand over to them the suspects in the 1988 bombing of the Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland. Libya's latest offer, made to the new U.S. administration, was transmitted by Libya's Foreign Affairs Minister Omar Mustafa Al Montasser through Belgium earlier in February. Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Ministry Willy Claes said last week he will carry a Libyan message to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher when they meet in Washington on Feb. 16.

Israel soldiers block evictees' return

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel agreed to take back a Palestinian from the occupied territories expelled 22 years ago but soldiers turned him away on Friday when he tried to come home. Israeli civil rights lawyer Lea Tzemet said Majed Zakarneh, 55, won the right to return after a seven-year court battle and would be the first Palestinian allowed by Israel to return home after such a long exile. But Mr. Zakarneh was turned back by soldiers when he tried to cross the bridge from Jordan to the occupied West Bank. Israeli security source said. The source said the soldiers had apparently not been told of the change in Mr. Zakarneh's status and told him to come back Sunday. Israel Radio said he would be allowed to return to the West Bank Sunday. The army had no immediate comment. Tzemet said Israel banished Mr. Zakarneh in 1970 on suspicion of belonging to Fateh. "They had no reason to expel him," said Ms. Tzemet.

rown Prince leaves for Europe

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath left Amman today on working visits to France and Italy expected to last several days. They were seen off by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Bakr and senior government officials as well as the ambassadors of France, Italy and the United Kingdom in Amman.

Benvenuto named Italy's Socialist leader

ROME (R) — Former trade union leader Giorgio Benvenuto was elected head of Italy's governing Socialist Party Friday to replace Bettino Craxi, who resigned over a bribery scandal. NSA news agency said. Mr. Benvenuto, who enjoyed the backing of the party leadership, defeated Deputy Foreign Minister Valdo Spini in a secret ballot for the party's mini-parliament. Mr. Craxi, a former prime minister, stepped down Thursday after more than 16 years as party secretary.

Clinton hails U.S. plan on Bosnia

EDDAH (AP) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) today welcomed U.S. President Bill Clinton's initiative on the embattled former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The OIC welcomes this timely initiative of the Clinton administration which improves the prospects of a negotiated settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the group's secretary general, Hamid U. Gahid, said in a statement. The 51-member OIC has been a key supporter of Bosnia's "human rights" and "democratic" U.S. initiative. The U.S. initiative calls for an arms embargo as sought by Bosnia's leadership. However, the plan comprised "highly positive and encouraging elements," Mr. Gahid said (see page 8).

Congo frees Libyan held over bombing

IRAZZAVILLE (R) — Congo as released a Libyan held for the last week in connection with the downing of a French airliner in 1989, police sources said Friday. They said Muhammad Emali was set free Thursday and was expected to fly to Libya as soon as possible. He was arrested last week when the French judge investigating the bombing in which 70 people died, Jean-Louis Bruviere, was visiting Brazzaville.

Serbs and Croats agree to U.N. talks

UNITED NATIONS (R) — International mediator Lord Owen said Friday that talks between the Croatian government and Serbs could begin at the United Nations next week in an effort to end a peace agreement blown apart in recent fighting. He said that Serbs in the Croatian enclave of Krajina who had earlier boycotted such negotiations had now agreed to attend peace talks at the United Nations in New York. "The Serbian authorities on the Krajina are coming here on Monday and ready to work on Tuesday," he said. Croatia's Defence Minister Gojko Susak spoke to Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, co-chairman of a conference on the former Yugoslavia, last week. But Mr. Owen said initial discussions would be with Croatian Serbs alone. The Croatia meetings, he said, would be parallel to talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina which are expected to resume in the middle of next week after new U.S. envoy Reginald Bartholomew arrives in Belgrade (See related story on page 8).

Palestinians seek U.N. formula to restart bilaterals

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Palestinians looked Friday for an acceptable formula from the United Nations to overcome the crisis with Israel over expulsions and to get back to the peace table. "We have to create the conditions that would enable us to participate," Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said. "As of now, we cannot." She backed away from the earlier Palestinian demand that all 400 exiles be repatriated immediately. "We will be willing to deal with whatever the Security Council decides," she said. Significantly, Ashrawi gave credit to Israel for submitting a statement on the dispute to the Security Council.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher worked out an agreement last week with Israel to repatriate all the expelled Palestinians by the end of the year and 100 of them right away. Dr. Ashrawi complained that the deal was arranged "behind our backs to get Israel off the hook." "We said this very directly" in meetings with State Department and White House officials, she said. But her main message apparently was one of compromise as Mr. Christopher prepares for a trip to the Middle East next week to try to get suspended peace talks restarted in April.

Israel also is working on a solution. Besides its statement to the United Nations outlining the agreement, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met Thursday with Secretary General Boutros Ghali and Council President Ahmad Snuusi of Morocco. Asked if the Palestinians were demanding the immediate return of all the Palestinians, who were expelled Dec. 17 on suspicion of fomenting violence against Israel, Ashrawi replied: "No. That's not what I am saying."

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Evictees urge Christopher to help their return home

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — A Palestinian clergyman expelled by the Israeli authorities with about 400 others urged U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Friday to help them return home. Sheikh Ahmad Bahor provided the sermon after Friday prayers, which the expellees performed in the rain near their tents in south-east Lebanon where they have camped since their Dec. 17 expulsion from the occupied territories. He asked Mr. Christopher to "adopt a clear stand on our plight — a stand that keeps America under the umbrella of the U.N. Security Council, a stand that supports our return home in line with Resolution 799." Mr. Christopher is to launch a Middle East tour Wednesday to discuss with Arab and Israeli leaders the resumption of the U.S. sponsored Middle East peace talks. The expellees have urged Arabs to boycott the talks until Israel allows them to return to the occupied West Bank and Gaza in line with Resolution 799. In Beirut, Foreign Minister Faris Bouez discussed prospects of the peace talks with U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker. Asked whether Mr. Christopher would visit Lebanon, Mr.

Bouez said: "Ambassador Crocker did not inform me of anything related to Secretary Christopher's visit to Lebanon. If he visited us we would welcome him, if he didn't, we would excuse him." He refused to elaborate. Mr. Crocker refused to talk to reporters after the 75-minute meeting. The spokesman for the expelled Palestinians, Dr. Abdul Aziz Rantisi of Gaza, was asked if they would invite Mr. Christopher to visit their tent camp in the snowy, barren hills near Israel's self-declared "security zone." "We say welcome to Mr. Christopher," Dr. Rantisi said, "but he has to have the intention to visit our camp. We are not in our homeland to invite people to visit us." Dr. Rantisi said reported efforts by the U.N. Security Council to work out a compromise on the evictees' issue by accepting Israel's offer to repatriate 101 of them and speed up the return of the rest was a "positive step." "Such a compromise should be followed by fast steps to repatriate all the (expellees). The issue is in the hands of the Security Council," he said. A sudden rain forced the expellees to seek shelter in their tents. (Continued on page 5)



A Palestinian woman with her children gestures towards her Gaza Strip house flattened by Israeli soldiers late Thursday (AFP photo)

Charges filed against Lufthansa hijacker

NEW YORK (AP) — The Ethiopian student who hijacked a Lufthansa airliner to New York with 104 people aboard threatened to kill one flight attendant every five minutes during a refuelling stop in Germany, court papers filed Friday said. A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) complaint filed before the scheduled arraignment of Nebiu Zewolde Demeke, 20, also said the suspect had confessed to the hijacking (see page 8). Demeke was charged with air piracy, which carries a jail term of 20 years to life. Mr. Demeke said he hijacked the plane because "he had a number of personal and family problems which required his presence in the United States," the complaint said. Mr. Demeke, an Ethiopian student living in Morocco, made two

demands: That the plane be flown to New York and that he receive political asylum. Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Roche said. Initial reports that Demeke also demanded the United States intervene in Bosnia were false, Mr. Roche said. Flight 592 had taken off from Frankfurt, Germany, for Cairo, Egypt, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, when the hijacker stormed into the cockpit, pointed a gun at the pilot and said, "If you do not turn West, I'll shoot you," recalled the pilot, Gerhard Goedel. In the tense hours that followed the takeover, the hijacker also threatened several passengers, and the captain struck a deal with him. "I said that if he would give me the gun, I would give him

JPA, non-JPA journalists welcome move to amend draft law clause

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) and non-JPA member journalists have received with satisfaction the decision of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) to abolish a clause on definition of journalists in the draft press and publication law. Both groups, however, have different reasons for celebrating the Senate's decision: the fight between them is still not over, and the final version of the controversial draft legislation is far from certain. In its session on Thursday, the 40-member senate overruled its Judiciary Committee — which recommended that recognition should not be restricted only to JPA members — deciding instead

to delete a clause in article 2 of the draft on the definition of journalists. The Lower House of Parliament had restricted recognition of journalists to members of the JPA while the Senate's Judiciary Committee proposed that "those who take journalism as profession" be also acknowledged as journalists. In Thursday's session, the Senate also referred back to the Judiciary Committee article 6 item(d) of the law. As originally passed by the Lower House, the article forces journalists to reveal their sources of information to the judiciary. The Senate's Judiciary Committee, however, proposed that journalists be forced to divulge their sources only during trial in criminal cases. The Senate asked the commit-

tee to amend the article to require divulgence of sources on issues related to national security, criminal cases and the "attainment of justice," issues that surfaced during senators' extended debate Thursday. A member of the board of the JPA said the association was happy with the Senate's decision because it reversed the House's version, which, he said, would have marginalised the role of the association. The deletion of the clause, said the JPA member who asked not to be named, means that the JPA temporary law of 1983 governs the profession and that the JPA would continue to regulate and protect the profession. A member of a committee for

Britons' families return home

AMMAN (AP) — Grim-looking relatives of two Britons imprisoned in Iraq left Jordan for home Friday after failing to negotiate the release of their loved ones. In Iraq, the families visited Paul Ride and Michael Wainwright, imprisoned in Abu Ghraib prison for illegally entering Iraq. Mr. Wainwright's mother, Iris, and his sister, Heather Horne, travelled with Mr. Ride's wife Julie and their 23-month old son William during the week-long visit to try to win the release of the two men. But Baghdad has spurned requests to release the prisoners and reiterated demands that London must unfreeze millions of dollars of Iraqi assets before Mr. Wainwright and Mr. Ride are freed.

U.N. team finds Iraqis indifferent

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The leader of a team of U.N. inspectors complained that they were treated with indifference Friday when they arrived to investigate whether Iraq had any clandestine ballistic missile capability left. "I was little bit surprised," said Frenchman Patrice Palanque, leading the 13-member team that includes American, Russian, French, British, Italian and German experts. "This was the first time that there was nobody over there to wait for us," he said of Iraqi treatment at Habbaniya military airport, 60 kilometres west of Baghdad. The team arrived from Bahrain, the regional headquarters of the U.N. special commission that is charged with destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. "This was the first time we spent some time waiting for our bus, waiting for a long time to have visas," he told reporters after arriving in a Baghdad hotel.

"This is different treatment than before... this was quite different," said Mr. Palanque, who is on his eighth visit to Iraq. There was indifference, but no Iraqi obstacle. Pierce Corden, deputy to special commission chief Rolf Ekeus, also arrived Friday. Mr. Corden, an American, is to review the commission's operations in Iraq. Mr. Palanque's team is the 50th to come to Iraq since the Gulf war. "We are not going to plan any meeting with the Iraqis... we intend to investigate sites again," the Frenchman said of the team's work plan. "I don't think anything, I am just looking for facts," he said when asked if he thought Iraq was hiding missiles. "Right now I am not going to give you... my feeling about that." U.N. resolutions oblige Iraq to scrap missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres along with the means of their production.

"My mission is to inspect some previous sites we have already been to... all the sites we are going to inspect are ballistic missile related," said Mr. Palanque. He said Iraq has destroyed under U.N. supervision 151 of its banned missiles. The U.N. has also verified Iraqi claims that it had unilaterally scrapped hundreds more missiles, launch vehicles and other munitions. Mr. Palanque also said the team may ask questions about Iraq's supply network to try to find out who supplied components and material to Baghdad. Iraq told U.N. inspector Nikita Smidovitch in a visit that ended on Jan. 29 that it would be prepared to consider favourably requests for information on procurement. Baghdad, seeking to break out of international isolation since the Clinton administration took show that it has fully complied with the ceasefire demands.

Afghan guerrillas bombard army posts

KABUL (R) — Dissident Afghan guerrillas exchanged fierce volleys of rocket and artillery fire with government troops on Friday, forcing residents to flee to safer areas of the shell-shattered capital Kabul. Fighters of the Hezb-e-Islami party of fundamentalist leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar fired volleys of rockets, sometimes at one-minute intervals, at a hill in south-western Kabul held by government troops. "Hezb-e-Islami started the fighting," a government commander said. "We are returning fire." One hospital in the centre of the city reported 12 dead and 47 injured, most with shrapnel wounds. "The hospital is totally full and we have had to put two patients in one bed," a nurse said. A body wrapped in blankets lay on a rack outside. On the 25th day of fighting, dozens of rockets screamed over the city in blistering exchanges between the two sides, slamming into Sher Darwaza Hill or falling short of their targets and exploding in homes. Terrified residents fled into the central Wazir Akbar Khan area to try to escape the onslaught despite the indiscriminate rocket fire around them. "The rockets were so many that I took my family and left our home to come here," said one elderly man pushing a barrowload of possessions through the almost deserted streets of Wazir Akbar Khan. "I think it is safer here." Hundreds of people have been killed and more than 4,000 injured in the fighting between the government and Mr. Hekmatyar and his Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat allies, who are trying to unseat President Burhanuddin Rabbani. "The United Nations should be involved," said one Kabul man outside the hospital. "The Mujahadeen can't sort out their own

Bakers seek top-level intervention in price dispute before protest action

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Bakery owners in Jordan have served notice that they would launch a protest action against what they describe as an unjust increase in the price of government-subsidised flour, but are reserving a final decision on the outcome of a meeting they are seeking with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. "We remain very much hopeful, that we could work out a solution with the prime minister," said Abed Ilah Al Hamawi, president of the Association of Bakery Owners in Jordan. The bakers also decided to send telegrams to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan "to inform them of the situation and appeal to them for help," Mr. Hamawi said. Mr. Hamawi was speaking after a four-meeting of the general assembly of the association at the

Chamber of Industry, attended by about 900 of its 1,200 members and representatives of the governor of Amman, the Chamber of Industry, the Chamber of Commerce and the Consumer Protection Society. The dispute arose from an obvious government move to deflect the impact of reduction of subsidy away from the consumer to the profit-making commercial sector. The bakers argue that the recently government-announced increase in the price of flour is higher than the parallel hike in the price of bread; in essence the impact of the reduction of subsidy will be borne mostly by the bakeries since the prices of bread cannot exceed a government-set ceiling. The reduction and gradual elimination of subsidies is in line with the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme. The obvious move to let the bakeries carry the major part of the consequent high price comes

in implementation of the government's efforts to avert a big hike of the price that the consumer has to pay. "We are not opposing the reduction of subsidies or the resulting increase in the price of bread," Mr. Hamawi said. "We are rejecting the imposition of higher prices for flour and the resulting reduction of our profit margins at a time when we already are suffering from high expenses." A centre-piece of the bakers' argument is that they have been calling on the government in the past three years to allow them a higher margin of profit in view of what Mr. Hamawi described as "dramatic increases in the cost of production." The bakeries also say that a one-hour extension of their working hours, as stipulated in the latest Ministry of Supply decision to raise prices, would further erode their profitability since it would mean higher pay for their



Bakers meet at the Chamber of Industry Friday (photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

employees. Speeches made during Friday's meeting include outright calls for an immediate protest action to appeals for efforts to find a common ground with the government. The meeting rejected a mediation committee's proposal under which bakeries would receive JD1 per tonne for tonne as a processing subsidy. The meeting, which was attended by representatives of bakeries from all over Jordan,

decided that the JD1 support was not enough," said Mr. Hamawi, adding that the decision to seek a meeting with Sharif Zeid was a "compromise solution between calls for strikes and for moderate action through constructive dialogue with the authorities." At the same time, he said, the association reserved the right to launch a protest action if its grievances were not addressed in 28 days from Friday. The planned protest action will be in the form of refusal to take

delivery of flour from government warehouses — meaning that no bakeries except those run by the government would be operating in the Kingdom — he said. According to association officials, 1,246 bakeries are registered members of the association, and around 300 are not. "While we believe that the protest action is our legal right under the democratisation that

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UNRWA voices alarm over situation in Gaza

VIENNA — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen Friday expressed concern over the situation of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip as a result of the deteriorating security and economic situation. "The worsening situation in the Gaza Strip over the last three months is cause for grave anxiety," he said from UNRWA headquarters in Vienna.

In the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis Thursday Israeli forces used explosives and anti-tank rockets, destroying or damaging 16 houses in a search for wanted persons: 26 families consisting of 179 members were affected by the operation. The number of homes destroyed and heavily damaged as a result of Israel's policy of using anti-tank rockets during searches for wanted Palestinians has greatly increased in recent months. Since Dec. 1, there have been 11 such operations, which have destroyed or heavily damaged 68 homes, a UNRWA press release said.

Over the last few months, there have been more deaths and injuries than at any time in nearly

three years. Since Dec. 1, 1992, 13 children under the age of 16 have been killed by security forces and over 250 injured by live ammunition. With the increase in deaths and casualties in the Gaza Strip in recent months, UNRWA emergency medical services — particularly ambulances and emergency clinics — have treated over 1,000 persons injured in clashes with security forces. Fatalities in December, during which 17 persons were killed, were the highest since May 1990. Eight Palestinians have been killed by security forces so far this month, two under the age of 16. In mid-December, 167 Palestinians from Gaza were expelled.

The worsening of the security situation has been compounded by Gaza's deteriorating economy. In December 1992, Gaza's fragile economy suffered when the Israeli authorities sealed off the Gaza Strip and imposed extensive round-the-clock curfews. UNRWA has estimated that losses in wages alone amounted to about US\$ 25 million. About 40 per cent of Gaza's workforce is without regular employment in the worst job situation in decades.

Kidnapped Canadian released in Yemen

SANAA (AP) — A Canadian man was released Thursday after being held hostage 19 days by Yemeni tribesmen in a land dispute with the government, officials said.

A Canadian envoy early Friday confirmed that Mike Schmitz, an employee of Sterling Air Services, had been freed.

An aide to Abdullah Al Ahmar, a government official who had negotiated for a release, said Mr. Schmitz had arrived in Sanaa about 12:30 a.m. (2130 GMT) Friday.

Earlier, Mr. Ahmar, a member of the Yemeni advisory council, travelled to Dhamar province about 100 kilometres south of Sanaa to talk with the Al Habar tribe, which abducted Mr. Schmitz Jan. 24.

The German-born Schmitz, whose parents live in Edmonton, Alberta, was kidnapped as he was returning from a trip to the southern port city of Aden and was held in a valley in the mountainous Dhamar region.

Officials said the Al Habar were using Mr. Schmitz in a dispute over government-confiscated land, in which a member of the tribe was killed and a police post seized by the tribe. Mr. Ahmar had previously refused to go to negotiate unless the tribe relinquished the police post.

Canada's government had rushed its vice consul from Saudi Arabia, Vicken Koundakjian, to follow the developments, along with the British embassy, which represents Ottawa's interests in Yemen.

Mr. Koundakjian said early Friday that Mr. Schmitz had been freed and went to visit him at an undisclosed location.

Foreigners have been easy prey to the lawlessness in this country of 14 million.

Last year, Yemenis seized seven people including George Slaughter, an American executive of the Hunt Oil Company, as they were being bused to an oil field helicopter base.

The kidnappers then sought the release of an imprisoned man. The authorities succeeded in freeing the people after about eight hours, but details of how this was accomplished were never revealed.

Political violence, including assassination attempts and bomb blasts aimed at rival politicians, also has been commonplace since the May 1990 merger of conservative North Yemen with Marxist South Yemen.



Destroyed homes: Palestinian women cry at the ruins on the ground floor of a building flattened by rockets fired by Israeli soldiers Thursday night (AFP)

2 Israeli soldiers wounded in Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

colonel told Israel Radio two were "men of high importance." Palestinians said those arrested were "small fry." Then said the army destroyed up to 20 homes with rockets and explosives during Thursday's operation in an act of collective punishment that left 35 families homeless.

Palestinians said the army operation in Khan Yunis was the largest in the last six months. Troops imposed a curfew on the

town before dawn and ordered families in the Al Amal neighbourhood to leave their homes. Soldiers then herded the men aged 15 to 50 into a nearby garage and blindfolded and bound them before troops fired rockets at the evacuated houses.

Tension has run high in Gaza ever since Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon in December. More than 40 Arabs have since been killed by the army in a sharp escalation in the

number of deaths. Unknown assailants have killed three Israelis in Gaza during the period.

On Tuesday an Israeli merchant who went there to buy produce was shot dead. On Jan. 30 guerrillas killed two soldiers in an ambush.

Palestinians, although saying they want to continue Middle East peace talks, have refused to resume negotiations until the evictees are returned

Iranian revolution takes back seat to economic woes

By Neil MacFarquhar

The Associated Press

TEHRAN — "God is great" rang across the night sky Wednesday as Iranians gathered under a shower of fireworks to mark the 24 hours of celebrations for the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

But the Islamic Republic born in February 1979 when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini toppled the Shah is troubled. To the outside world, the militant Khomeini presented defiant independence. But the fight over his legacy has brought Iran economic woes, mismanagement and shaky foreign relations.

The shadowy alliances of the clergy that are Ayatollah Khomeini's heirs fight over how to maintain the religious and cultural guidelines he established while freeing the economy from state control. Like Eastern Europe, the broad consensus for change is stalled by fighting over the speed and fears about social unrest.

Economic problems dominate all discussions in Iran, where both inflation and unemployment are running over 20 per cent.

"The Islamic system has to show that it can provide a decent standard of living," President Hashemi Rafsanjani said at a Friday sermon midway through the 10-day celebrations.

Considering the total lack of investment and heavy devastation during the 1980-88 war with Iraq, achieving such a standard could take at least a decade, Mr. Rafsanjani said. The contrast between the surface bravado of the celebrations and the grim undertow of daily life was underscored by a mid-air collision Monday that killed 132 people.

The government-controlled media almost ignored the dis-

aster and instead trumpeted the revolution.

The opposition press lashed the government for allowing transportation to decay to the point that a passenger plane could collide with an air force jet outside the capital's main airport.

Government officials said nothing about reports in several papers that the Russian pilots of the leased Tupolev passenger plane spoke little English and probably misunderstood the flight path assigned by the control tower. But the black box that might reveal what happened had to be shipped to Russia to be deciphered, they said.

Letters to the editor called for government resignations, while others said the control-tower employees were paid so little that they had to moonlight driving taxis.

"Mismanagement is the most important problem we have in the country right now," said businessman Khosrow Sodine.

Change is coming much slower than people hoped after the defeat of the hardliners who supported a centralised economy in last April's parliamentary elections.

Big wins by influential merchants were expected to bring new prosperity by lending investor confidence to foreign firms and Iranians living abroad.

It has not happened. Instead, Iran went on a \$30 billion shopping binge for consumer products that damaged its international credit rating.

Businessmen report that economic activity has been dead for almost six months as they wait to see if the government will implement a realistic dollar-ril exchange rate.

However, due to economic riots in some cities earlier this year, some fear that new rates will hike the cost of basic goods 50 per cent and spark mass

unrest.

Mr. Rafsanjani's government has promised to protect subsidies for basic foodstuffs, and he may delay other difficult changes until after presidential elections in June.

Intellectuals complain that possible unrest undermines changes towards real freedom for political parties, unions, women or speech.

"It will take another 20-years for complete freedom of expression," said Kiyomars Sadeghi, editor of the satirical weekly Ghogha.

In foreign policy, Iran wants to be the hub of an Islamic bloc strong enough to fend off all challenges from the United States and the West.

Tehran denies frequent charges from Washington and elsewhere that it seeks to export Muslim fundamentalism and develop a massive arsenal, including nuclear weapons.

Mr. Rafsanjani refuted claims Wednesday that Iran engages in terrorism, and said that Iran's arms purchases are for defensive purposes only.

But the fact that bad relations could retard economic growth provokes world-be-damned rhetoric from senior clergy and their grassroots supporters.

"We didn't rebel and have a revolution to fill our stomachs. We did it for Islam," said a 34-year-old housewife Fatima Nadavi.

There is no sign of resuming ties with the United States, severed after Iranian militants seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran in November 1979 and held 52 hostages 444 days.

Mr. Rafsanjani is having difficulty ending his country's isolation with other Western powers and Arab states.

The Clinton administration has meanwhile sent a letter of support to the Mujaheddin-Kurd Catholic hospital, widely hated here for fighting with Iraq during the war.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan grants \$9.6m in aid to Somalia

TOKYO (R) — Japan will donate about \$9.6 million in emergency aid to Somalia, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. The money would be distributed through United Nations relief organisations, including the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and the U.N. Children's Fund, it said. The assistance is aimed at Somalia's two million victims of drought and civil war and the one million refugees who have fled the fighting to neighbouring Ethiopia or Djibouti. Japan was considering an additional \$10 million in food aid, the ministry said. Last year, Japan gave aid totalling \$27 million to the impoverished Horn of Africa country. Earlier this month, Vice-Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa became the first Japanese politician to visit Somalia since a U.S.-led multi-national force launched a huge operation late last year to protect famine relief efforts from warring factions.

Eritrean leader resting in Israel

CAIRO (R) — Eritrea's transitional head of state Isayas Afewerki has returned to Israel for the second time in month to receive treatment for malaria, Al Hayat newspaper reported Friday. In a report from occupied Jerusalem, Al Hayat quoted the head of African diplomacy at the Israeli foreign ministry, Moshe Yeger, as saying Mr. Afewerki's treatment was part of "solid ties" between Israel and the breakaway Ethiopian Red Sea province, which plans to become independent after elections in April. "Israel has solid ties with Eritrea as a part of 'solid ties' between Israel and the future state of Eritrea as independent in Ethiopia...we look at the future state of Eritrea as independent and shall set up cooperation with it in various fields," Mr. Yeger was quoted as saying. Israel's foreign ministry last month said it would neither confirm nor deny reports that Mr. Afewerki was being treated in Israel. Mr. Yeger said Mr. Afewerki went back to Eritrea, which occupies a strategic position on the Red Sea coast and controls some sources of the River Nile, in late January but returned to Israel about 10 days ago because of a relapse.

Iranian foreign minister to visit Cuba

HAVANA, Cuba (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will visit Cuba on Feb. 20, the Cuban domestic news agency Ain said Thursday. It gave no detailed programme for the 24-hour visit but diplomats in Havana said bilateral trade, especially deals involving sugar and oil, could be on the agenda of Mr. Velayati's talks with Cuban government officials. Cuba imported oil from Iran in 1992 and is due to complete a 1992 contract to deliver 200,000 tonnes of sugar to the Gulf state. The Caribbean island has also agreed to provide equipment, technology and training to help Iran develop its sugar industry. The two countries signed a two-year nuclear energy cooperation programme in late 1991 but details of this agreement have not been released. Since the collapse of its trade and aid ties with eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, Cuba has moved to increase its economic and political links with the Middle East.

Sri Lanka rejects case against Libya

COLOMBO (AP) — A district court Thursday dismissed a case against Libyan Ambassador Saleem Ahmad Quteibi by a contractor who accused him of defaulting on paying for renovating the embassy. The court ruled that Mr. Quteibi was protected from the action by diplomatic immunity. It made no judgement on the merits of the claim. The contractor, Hosney Fady Fathah of Unique Construction Company, said the Libyan government owed 2.1 million rupees (\$47,007) for the work.

U.S. court asked to halt Demjanjuk case

CINCINNATI, Ohio (R) — A former government lawyer has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to halt a probe into the 1987 deportation of alleged Nazi guard John Demjanjuk, according to court records released Thursday. George Parker, a former U.S. government trial lawyer, said the investigation was an abuse of discretion on the part of the local U.S. court of appeals which is conducting it. If the results of the investigation were issued, he said, in a motion filed with the Cincinnati court, he and other former government lawyers could suffer "irreparable injury (to) their professional livelihoods and reputations" if the report found "prosecutorial misconduct." In the motion, released by the appeals court Thursday, Mr. Parker said he had asked the U.S. Supreme Court for an order stopping the investigation. The Cincinnati court last year reopened the case of the former Cleveland carworker who is facing the gallows in Israel where he was convicted of being "Ivan the Terrible," a guard at Treblinka, who gassed thousands of people. Demjanjuk, 76, has appealed the conviction in Israel, citing new evidence from the former Soviet Union. His lawyers contend the evidence shows that Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk was a victim of mistaken identity. He has claimed he was a prisoner of war in Poland during the relevant period from 1942 to 1944 after being captured by the Germans while serving in the Soviet army. The Israeli supreme court is considering that appeal. The Cincinnati court is investigating whether Demjanjuk's 1987 deportation was valid and whether the government had information in its files at the time of his trial that would have shed light on the mistaken identity question.

Turkey, Romania strengthen Balkan ties

BUCHAREST (R) — Turkey and Romania, the two largest countries in the Balkans, agreed Friday to expand their relations in an effort to boost stability in a region shaken by the breakup of Yugoslavia. The two states enshrined their relationship in a document on political, diplomatic, cultural and economic cooperation signed during a two-day visit by Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, which ended Friday. "This programme has primarily a political message," Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu said after the talks, which covered the latest developments in Yugoslavia. "It expresses Turkey's and Romania's decision to contribute to stability and security in the area of the Balkans, their decision to expand their relations at all levels," he said. As part of the agreement Romanian President Ion Iliescu will visit Turkey later this year, probably in September. Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel will come to Romania, and the two countries' foreign ministers will also exchange visits. "There is a coincidence of opinions between Romania and Turkey regarding international life," Mr. Iliescu said after meeting Mr. Cetin Thursday. Mr. Cetin said his talks with Mr. Iliescu had been "very useful".

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Aventures de L'espace
18:30 Envoyé Spécial
19:00 News in French
19:15 France 2
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 America's Funniest Home Videos
21:00 Documentary
21:30 Science Workshop
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "The Fatal Image"

PRAYER TIMES

04:59 Fajr
06:17 Sunrise
11:50 Dhuhr
14:55 Asr
17:23 Maghreb
18:41 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 62785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62584
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622546

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Armenian Church Tel. 628551, Tel. 62543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 653226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624324

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623024, 624932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A cold front will affect Jordan as of the afternoon. Therefore, it will be partly cloudy, changing gradually to cloudy and rains. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be a partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain, while winds will be northwesterly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikh 752405
Dr. Adnan Al Zughoul 981140
Dr. Jamal Ja'fari 769461
Dr. Mohamed Al Ghoul 760730
Firas pharmacy 641912
Firdous pharmacy 770336
Al Astora pharmacy 637055
Naroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 646445
Shimani pharmacy 637661
Najih pharmacy 847632

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Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 646445

Shimani pharmacy 637661

Najih pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Za'at 248116

Al Oudh Pharmacy (—)

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 812228

Blood Bank 75121

Highway Police 643412

Traffic Police 636140

Public Security Department 63021

Hotel Complaints 605081

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 767111

Telephone Information 121

Directorate assistance 111020

Overseas Calls 111020

Overseas Calls 111020

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Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 771111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

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Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday visits poor districts and Palestinian refugee camps in Amman.

Prince Hassan calls for equity in services to Amman's needy districts

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday spent three hours touring the poor districts and Palestinian refugee camps in the Amman area where he met with local residents and Amman Mayor Muhammad Al Bashir to discuss the needs of these districts.

Prince Hassan, who has presented a working paper on needed services to these areas to the Greater Amman Municipality, urged concerned residents to conduct surveys in their areas and to develop projects to improve the living conditions of the people.

Particular attention, he said, should be given to women, children and the elderly, who are the most vulnerable groups in the community.

He said private and government organisations should start workshops and handicraft centres to help needy families in the poor districts.

Later in a statement to the press, the Crown Prince underlined the importance of stimulating voluntary work which he said, would be of great benefit to the poor districts.

He added that citizens should be involved in the decision-making process in the development of their regions since they know best about their problems.

Prince Hassan said particular attention and assistance should be provided to families that have lost their sole means of support so that these families can acquire steady and regular incomes. He stressed the importance of equity in providing services.

Congressman says U.S. eager to resume peace talks

AMMAN (Petra) — United States Congressman Christopher Cox Thursday said the new American administration of President Bill Clinton is keen to resume the Arab-Israeli peace talks at the earliest possible time, and is determined to remove all obstacles to the resumption of the negotiations.

Addressing World Affairs Council in Amman, Mr. Cox said the present occupation of the new American administration in internal affairs will not take place at the expense of the Middle East question, because the establishment of peace in the region does not only benefit the countries of the region, but also the United States and the world.

U.S. UNICEF hold medical education seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day specialised symposium on medical education will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in Irbid. The symposium will involve the present status of medical education and how it can be improved to effectively support the achievement of the health goals for women and children in 1990s. It is organised by JUST and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

WHAT'S GOING ON

- Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.
- Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Syrian artist Nazir Nab'a at Baladina Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings by the late Syrian artist Alfred Hatmal at Al Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhels city.
- Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jammal, Helen Khol, Saba Noori and Afaf Zureik — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles.
- Exhibition of photographs by Jean-Philippe Reverdot at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Hayat Jamil Hafez at Alia Art Gallery.

German film entitled "Thirty Years on the Signing of Eysce" (20 min.) and English film entitled "The Five New Federal States" (72 min.) at the Goethe Institute at 8 p.m.

Happy Valentine's Day

Feb. 14 / 93

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Residence rules strictly enforced, not changed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The recent announcement that a Residents and Aliens Affairs law of 1974 would be strictly enforced is mainly aimed at closing the door against those who stay on in the Kingdom without proper work and residence permits, informed observers said Friday.

According to Brigadier Adel Armouti, head of the Borders and Aliens Affairs Department of the Ministry of Interior, foreign residents of Jordan who have yearly work and residence permits are not affected in any way by the measure.

Brig. Armouti was clarifying some local reports which had suggested that residence permit holders had to submit renewal applications to the Borders and Aliens Affairs Department at least two weeks before the expiry of the permit as opposed to one month after the expiry.

"Only casual visitors/tourists who would like to extend their stay in Jordan beyond two weeks are affected by the decision," Brig. Armouti said, explaining that the move was aimed at closely monitoring the status of foreigners entering and leaving the country.

He noted that foreigners carrying a visiting visa to Jordan are given 15 days of stay stamped in their passports by the immigration authorities on entering the Kingdom through the land, sea or air points.

"If someone of this category would like to stay beyond the two-week period, then he or she has to contact the nearest police station and obtain a special permit after providing all necessary details such as passport numbers, purpose of stay, street address etc.," Brig. Armouti told the Jordan Times.

Thousands of Egyptians, Syrians and Iraqis enter Jordan every week. Many of them find

employment and opt to stay on in the Kingdom but without obtaining the necessary work permits. Under bilateral and multilateral agreements they do not have to obtain residence permits but have to get their passports stamped endorsing their stay in the country.

According to official sources, this provision was only loosely applied, and many such visitors stay on until they decide to leave or are caught working without permits.

Under the tightening of the rule, hotels and landlords have to inform the nearest police station of the details of their tenants within 48 hours of the beginning of their stay or face prosecution.

"This stipulation prevents anyone from staying on in the country without the authorities being aware of his or her whereabouts," noted an official source.

"Once the rule is enforced in full from March 1, the authorities could locate anyone without diffi-

culty," the source added.

In the meantime, the status and rules governing legal permanent residents in the Kingdom are unchanged.

"The rules and regulations concerning those who have work permits (issued by the Ministry of Labour) and residence permits (issued by the Ministry of Interior) remain as they are," Brig. Armouti said.

In most cases, a work permit is a prerequisite for a residence permit, except in cases of foreigners who are contracted directly by the government or those whose employers' contracts with the government stipulate their exemption.

Foreigners entering the country on a tourist or business visa cannot change their status to an employee in Jordan during their stay in the Kingdom.

Those who intend to take up employment have to enter the country with prior permission issued to their employers by the

Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Interior.

Work and residence permits have to be renewed annually, within one month of their expiry. The Ministry of Labour has laid down a set of penalties for defaulters beginning with JD 75 per month of delay in renewing/obtaining a work permit; any delay in renewing a residence permit incurs a fine of JD 1 per day.

Thousands of foreigners who were stuck in Jordan after overstaying their visas with no funds to pay the fines were given a respite by a Royal Amnesty granted in November under which all their penalties until Nov. 14, the day of the issuance of the amnesty, were waived.

Many of them have left already and others could leave after paying the fine for the period after the amnesty.

In general terms, Brig. Armouti said, all foreigners carrying residence permits, except

those employed as domestic help, are free to leave the country and return within the period of validity of the permits without prior clearance from their employers and the authorities.

"Those who are leaving after the expiry of their contracts have to obtain a clearance letter from their employers," he said.

The residence permits of those leaving for good will be cancelled by the Borders and Aliens Affairs Department, while those who leave the country for short durations could return within the validity of their residence permits.

In both cases, the employers have to submit an application to the department office in Amman, in turn, the department will make the necessary endorsement in their passports, clearing the bearers for departure.

Such clearance will not be issued at the immigration counter at the airport or land and sea departure points.

Jordan's human rights organisations prepare for international conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Human Rights Organisation (AHRO) — the Jordanian Chapter — Friday announced its decision to take the responsibility of organising the concerted efforts of non-governmental institutions whose concern is human rights in Jordan.

Attorney Hani Dahleh said in a statement that the AHRO will organise the activities of those organisations active in the youth, labour, economic, women's and other fields in order to unify their positions in preparation for the International Conference on Human Rights to be held in Vienna in June.

Mr. Dahleh, chairman of a committee preparing for Jordan's participation in the conference said 17 non-governmental orga-

nisations operating in the Kingdom held a meeting in Amman recently and chose the preparatory committee which, he said, would present Jordan's views with regard to Arab human rights.

He added that the 17 organisations have also decided to set up a sub-committee to conduct studies and prepare working papers on topics that would be taken up at the Vienna conference; and a media and publications sub-committee that will organise seminars on human rights in the Arab World and subjects related to democracy and development.

The preparatory committee includes Emily Naffaa, Asma Khader, Suleiman Sweis, Mohammad Midheh, Mohammad Shobaki, Yousef Hourani and

Abdul Jabbar Abu Gharbieh, Mr. Dahleh said.

Later in a statement, the preparatory committee said its work will include:

- unifying the efforts and aims of all Jordanian non-governmental organisations;
- involving as many organisations as possible;
- coordinating efforts with other Arab preparatory committees on questions related to Arab human rights;
- striving to transform the preparatory committee into a standing non-governmental committee on human rights in Jordan, whose aim will be to create the "Arab Human Rights Charter;" and
- focusing light on human rights question and their connection to issues in the Jordanian society.

'Cités Citées', a French modern dance 'offering'

AMMAN — Ballet, with its aristocratic conventions and elaborate code of steps, was precisely what the first modern dancers reacted against.

If ballet dancers seemed to overcome gravity with effortless leaps or point-work, modern dancers were earthbound.

Instead of lacing up toe shoes, modern dance go bare footed.

In place of an academic vocabulary of gesture that developed over centuries, pioneers of modern dance study the natural movements of their own bodies — walking, running, breathing — and develop their own systems of movement.

The fierceness of their gestures in contrast to ballet's graceful symmetries, underlines the force of their emotion.

Most modern dancers require a strong classical technique to meet the challenges of basic dance movement.

Modern-contemporary dance is still a new concept to most audi-

ences, although it has begun to be appreciated, if not completely understood, by a smaller audience.

The old rift between ballet and modern dance is today being bridged by a phenomenon that promises to integrate each form.

Under the patronage of Princess Majda, and for the benefit of the Occupational Therapy College, the French Cultural Centre in Amman Thursday presented the ballet "Cités Citées" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

"Cités Citées" was conceived 3 years ago, in the mind of choreographer, Michel Kelemenis.

It is about the coastal cities of Marseilles, Shanghai, Kobe, Hamburg, Dakar, Alexandria, and Abidjan.

The dance style was a French reflection of Merce Cunningham, an American modern dance choreographer.

Trained to move using basic modern techniques, the dancers work individually with the

choreographer to develop style. The concept is a new type of contemporary movement in France.

The result is choreographed emotions brought forth to the audience.

Costumes, lighting, and sets were simple but effective. Blue was used in the set and costumes to depict the sea, the common element to all of the coastal cities.

The dancers performed to a full house which indicates a welcomed increase of interest in dance in Jordan.

Responses to the piece varied, largely because of the lack of exposure to and understanding of this unique style of modern dance.

However, the natural flow of the creative movement was generally well-received and appreciated.

The above review was contributed to the Jordan Times by Rania Kanhaw, Sonja Sawa and Ali Yasir.

Palestine a major topic of Afro-Asian talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Palestine question and the problem of Palestinian refugees were among the main topics discussed at the 32nd session of the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee which met in Kampala in the past week, according to Minister of Justice Yousef Mbeideen.

The minister, who represented Jordan at the meeting, said in a statement upon his return to Amman Thursday night that the ordeal of the expelled Palestinians to southern Lebanon and the inhuman treatment of Palestinians in the past by the Israeli occupation authorities were discussed at the week-long meeting.

Jordan submitted a number of working papers related to Israel's settlement programmes in the occupied Palestinian lands, the question of Palestinian refugees and the expellees problem, said Mr. Mbeideen.

He said Jordan explained to the committee the difficulties encountered by the forced emigration of Palestinian families to Jordan including economic and social problems.

The Jordanian delegation also submitted a working paper on the country's socio-economic development, featuring its experiments over the past three decades, the minister said.

Sharif Zeid, Hussein discuss U.S. Secretary of State visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Thursday discussed with Faisal Al Hussein, chairman of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, means of further enhancing Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in the talks following Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians to southern Lebanon.

Sharif Zeid and Mr. Hussein stressed the need for Israel to fully observe United Nations Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for returning all the Palestinian expellees to their homeland.

They reiterated that the re-

sumption of the peace talks will be meaningless if genuine intentions to reach a just, comprehensive and durable solution to the Palestine question, in accordance with international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace, are not there.

Sharif Zeid and Mr. Hussein also discussed the upcoming visit by United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region and the role the U.S. can play in the peace process.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim.

Water authority taps Heidan springs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) announced Friday that it has started drawing drinking water from the Heidan springs to Madaba and Amman at an initial rate of 600 cubic metres an hour.

In the first half of 1993 the 600 cubic metres will be increased to 1,100 cubic metres, once the second stage of the project has been completed, according to WAJ Amman Department Director Munther Khleifat.

Mr. Khleifat said the project to pump water to Madaba and Amman from Heidan springs started in 1990 and would be completed early 1994.

He said the WAJ plans to replace the old and worn out

water networks in the Amman region, and is currently laying rust-resistant pipes in the areas of Naser and the Royal Racing Club in eastern Amman as the first stage of the JD3.6 million project.

Mr. Khleifat said the work will take 18 months to complete.

He added that a tender will soon be announced for the replacement of the old network in Hashimi and Marka, and WAJ is seeking funds to finance projects in other parts of the capital.

He said a project is underway for laying water networks in 11 new districts of Amman at an overall cost of JD243,000; that project will take six-months to complete.

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Other approach for here

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton's reservations about the Vance-Owen peace plan for Bosnia and Croatia goes beyond the plan's own deficiencies. Washington clearly seeks to assert itself as the central party in the search for an equitable solution to the conflicts in former Yugoslavia. The Vance-Owen peace scheme is mostly a U.N. and European Community (EC) formula in which the U.S. was not actively involved. For this purpose the U.S. moved swiftly to name a U.S. envoy to deal with the Bosnian-Croatian conflict and to demonstrate serious concern about what is happening. U.S. secretary of State Warren Christopher said that "the conflict may be far from our shores but it is certainly not distant from our concerns in a bid to prove this point."

But uppermost on the mind of U.S. policymakers in their belated attempt to address the other shortcomings of the U.N.-EC peace scheme appears to be the proposition that aggressors should not be rewarded for their aggression, as called for in the well-established principle of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 against the admissibility of the acquisition of territory by force.

If this indeed the case, the impressive interference by President Clinton on behalf of justice and human rights in former Yugoslavia awaits duplication elsewhere in the world, notably in the Middle East. It would be truly consistent with this credible U.S. stand on Bosnia and Croatia if Washington pursued similar goals vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially its Palestinian dimension, where Arab human rights are trampled on daily and "ethnic cleansing" is exercised by Israel against the Palestinian people. "Ethnic cleansing" in Palestine was perpetrated, to mention only one ex. through the massacre of Palestinians at Deir Yassin when Jewish armed groups committed purposely and with the avowed aim of driving out the Arab population from their homeland and make way for the creation of a strictly Jewish state. Similar acts of "ethnic cleansing" were pursued in Palestine in accordance with a predetermined policy set out by the early Zionist leaders.

So as the world applauds the new U.S. president and his team for speaking out against the systematic violations of basic human rights committed in former Yugoslavia, there is a strong yearning for the continued application of these ideals and practices to other suffering and victimised peoples around the globe.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR Friday expressed its support of the United States' move towards finding a settlement to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and said that time has come for major powers to put an end to the bloodbath in former Yugoslavia, said the paper. The American move is of great importance since it came from a nation with vast international influence and one which can rally the international community towards practical steps to end the conflict, the paper added. What drew the observers' attention, said the daily, is the fact that the conflicting parties in the country have now declared they welcome the U.S. plan which would be also sponsored and supported by the United Nations. The paper welcomed the U.S. move, expressing hope that the six-point peace plan will open a new chapter in relations between Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and help re-establish peace in this part of Europe.

A columnist in Al Ra'i said that the foreign ministers of Turkey, Iran and Syria meeting in Damascus, were bound to declare their total rejection of any partition of Iraq and would definitely support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Iraqi nation. Mohammad Kharroub said there is no doubt that this would be the decision in Damascus in the light of an adamant position on the part of the Kurds who openly demand the right to self-determination of some 30 million Kurds living in Iran, Syria, Turkey and Iraq. Although Syria is at odds with Turkey over the sharing of river waters, and despite Iran's interference in Turkey's internal affairs, which was condemned by Ankara, the three countries are bound to come out in concert over the Kurdish question, openly denouncing all Kurdish demands for the right to self-determination because such a move would destabilise the Turkish, Iranian and Syrian nations as it means the separation of large parts of the three countries to form one Kurdish nation, the writer continued. For their part, the Kurds have condemned the Damascus meeting as they did for the other meetings on the same topic, said the writer. He said that despite the deep differences among them, Turkey, Iran and Syria are bound to come out in support of Iraq's unity and territorial integrity and prevent the creation of a Kurdish nation in northern Iraq so as to close the door on any Kurdish attempt to follow that step with a similar one in their own countries.

Only a western threat of force can save Sarajevo

By Leslie H. Gelb

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Sarajevo is destroyed, but not its people. More than half its 560,000 peacetime citizens still outlive the steel and concrete structures built to survive them.

People, in mysterious unity with the "crump, crump" of occasional mortars and the "pings" of sniper fire, move along moonlit sidewalks as if late to imaginary offices. Sprinkled among them, clicking along in high heels and short, tight black skirts, are young women, slim, hair meticulously coiffed. Heads twist appreciatively.

Sarajevans have already endured longer than the Russians of Stalingrad 50 years ago. And to keep them alive — just barely — has taken a United Nations effort almost equal in aid tonnage to the Berlin airlift in 1948-1949.

As in all wars, black-marketeering thrives and crosses every line of ethnic hate. "It shows that Serbs, Croats and Muslims really can cooperate when they want to," a British wag quipped.

I lunched with General Philippe Morillon, U.N. commander in Bosnia, at his headquarters. It is a splendid old East European-style villa in the centre of the city, often used in grander days by President Tito, the father of post-war Yugoslavia. The general, a dozen of his aides and I sat down at a table in the formal, haunted dining room and nibbled on cold cuts and salads. Attendants poured red wine.

A Frenchman of old-world manners, the silver-haired general talked of the Vance-Owen peace plan, which he argued was

bridge across an insignificant stream.

We parked at the Holiday Inn so I could pay respects to John Burns, the awesome correspondent of The New York Times, whose words have outshone pictures. He was elsewhere, following the cannons' sounds.

We stopped at the presidency building, a Communist-Greek structure where a secretary was shot and killed through the window the other day. I had an appointment with Zlatko Lagumdija, a deputy prime minister of Bosnia. A yuppie, about 40, clad in windbreaker and sneakers, he wanted no part of the Vance-Owen plan. "Our president spoke about this plan Tuesday night," he said.

President Alija Izetbegovic was not endorsing it, but thinking out loud and saying perhaps

War is no solution to Bosnia's problems!

By Max Gallo

TO COMBAT what Le Monde's founder Hubert Beuve-Méry called, in 1934, "the appalling stupidity of war," should we abandon the use of our faculties? Surely barbarity will be encouraged to spread rather than regress unless we are careful to remain rigorous in our reasoning and our use of historical references?

Listening to what some people have been saying, it is difficult to avoid the suspicion that they are chiefly interested in regaining or preserving what little political credibility they have, or in staying in the public eye. It is equally difficult to avoid the conclusion that others are so utterly convinced they embody truth, intelligence, and morality that they confuse self-promotion — "I did this, I did that ..." — with the interests of nations. Can France's

in Bosnia is "the Spanish Civil War" (why aren't we mustering an International Brigade?), and when I read in a leaflet: "1942: the Nazis adopt the Final Solution, 1992: Serb extremists adopt ethnic cleansing. The same aims, the same methods, the same abdication of responsibilities."

I do wonder whether those who make such comparisons in the hope of clinching their case and arousing a spirit of revenge realise that they are in fact acting as the standard-bearers of historical revisionism.

For if Milosevic, following in the footsteps of Saddam Hussein, is a new Hitler, if the ignominious process of ethnic cleansing is the final solution, if the intolerable concentration camps set up by Serbs (and others) are the equivalent of Auschwitz or Treblinka, then the Holocaust was just one

that in 1914 he called for arbitration right up to the last minute, even after the armies had started moving, and that only a few hours before his assassination he was still arguing against war as a "solution" to the problems at hand.

In my view any action, even one prompted by moral concern, will necessarily be ineffective or aggravate a situation unless it forms part of a precise plan and is based on an assessment of facts and objectives. It is all very well to go in with bombs or an army of occupation, but what do you do afterwards with the warring peoples?

Lastly, it should be remembered there is a serious risk of the conflict spreading. What is going on is a Balkan war insofar as, quite apart from more recent problems specific to the post-Communist situation, it has its origin in, and derives its (barbaric) forms from, conflicts that have occurred for centuries in that region — a region that is a mosaic of peoples and religions, and a breeding ground of hatred.

The fragmentation of Yugoslavia (and Czechoslovakia) has taken us back to the pre-1914 situation (when Germany decided to go it alone in recognising Croatia and Slovenia in 1911, it nullified the Trianon Treaty of 1920; France and the rest of Europe meekly followed suit). Clearly Turkey, Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, and perhaps even Russia, if it sees pan-Slavism as a way of galvanising the nation, could tomorrow get sucked into this maelstrom of conflicting passions. It is because of this risk, which could have incalculable repercussions, that it is vital to look before we leap into Bosnia and to give priority to diplomatic channels.

That is not the same thing as abandoning women, prisoners, and whole peoples to their fate or leaving the U.N. without the military clout to apply pressure. It simply requires that all the peoples of the former Yugoslavia should first be offered the possibility of a political solution, such as, for example, new links between them within a European framework.

"In a civil war, killing is like deforestation," said Saint-Exupéry. The horror is multiplied tenfold in Bosnia because, as in all the Balkan states, hatred fomented by civil war (between neighbours) is deeply tinged with the nationalist violence of wars waged against foreigners. It is difficult to see how military action — by other foreigners — could ever result in lasting peaceful coexistence.

Brave people were right to die for Madrid or Danzig, because it was the only way to prevent the conflagration from spreading. Today, to risk an extension of the conflict would be to aggravate human suffering; the only chance of peace lies in a political compromise. — Le Monde.

"Western powers must push on Serbia with full diplomatic weight for an immediate ceasefire around Sarajevo. Time is of the essence, and only a threat of force, not more toothless envoys, can save Sarajevans."

Mostly Slavic Muslims, they have survived the Serbian pounding and the theft and black-marketeering by Serbs, Croats, fellow Muslims and soldiers of the U.N. forces sent to protect them. The Ukrainian battalion here, in particular, is widely said to spend much time on such affairs.

At checkpoints en route to the city, Serbian irregulars exact a heavy toll of aid packages from U.N. convoys. They are said to grab between 25 and 40 per cent of each load. The United Nations orders its convoys not to resist. It would only make more trouble for the nearly defenseless international helpers.

The food and other aid that arrives in the city is deposited by U.N. forces in Bosnian government warehouses. Much quickly flies out the back doors. The remainder goes to ordinary people.

the only possible means of settling the war. The plan has, he offered in his baritone, good constitutional principles. The sides will realise, he said, that peace must be the only way. His aides sat silently.

Corporal Jacques Mauve volunteered to drive me around the city. With flak jackets and helmets, which Sarajevans do not have, we sped off.

"Here," Corporal Jacques said at one corner, "an old lady was shot by a sniper the other day. She lay in the street for two days. Our orders are not to stop in this area. We picked up her body the second night, when it was very dark and the snipers could not see us."

"There," he said farther on, "is the bridge where Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated to start World War I." It was a tiny stone

the plan would not be so bad, that we could live with it. And some of us told him. "Anyone who signs this plan will not only be politically dead,"

"Everything is up to America now," he added.

In one way he is right. The United States is revered and feared here, and Europe awaits a strong and wise lead from Washington. But this dead city with its live people somehow hanging on — a mere hour and a half from London or Paris by plane — is ultimately the ward of all civilised nations.

This week, western powers must push on Serbia with full diplomatic weight for an immediate ceasefire around Sarajevo. Time is of the essence, and only a threat of force, not more toothless envoys, can save Sarajevans — The New York Times.

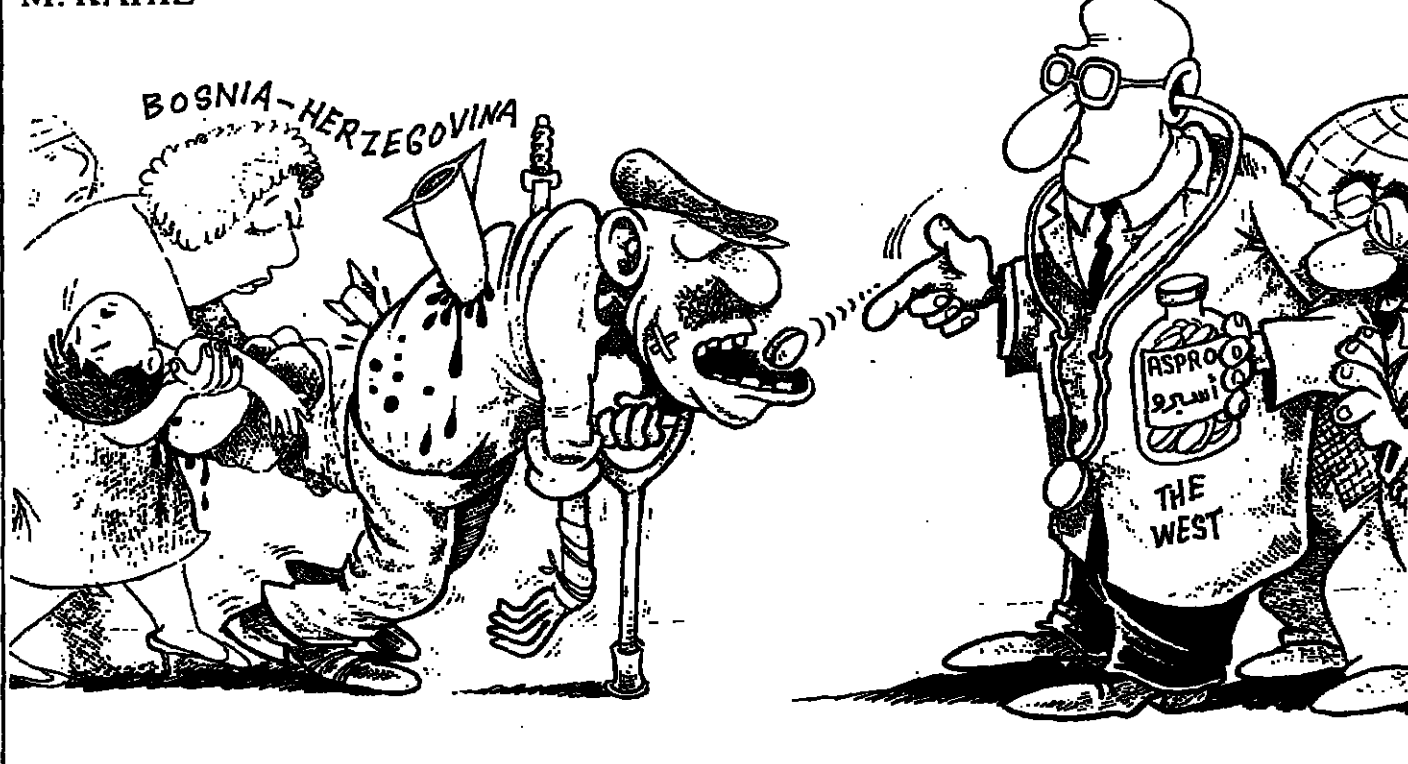
foreign policy be regarded as coherent if it allows itself to be buffeted off course by pressure from the media? And all this is happening without the democratically elected representatives of the people being consulted.

But then whose interests are actually being served, the victims' or their helpers? That is a question I cannot help asking myself when I hear our leaders making contradictory statements, when I watch television commercials that denounce the Serb people en bloc (if they are all guilty, what are we to do with them — burn down Belgrade the way we burned down Dresden and Berlin?), when I see the walls of Paris sporting posters comparing Milosevic to Hitler, when I hear people trying to up the ante by claiming that Sarajevo is "the Warsaw ghetto" and that the war

historical event among others. Evil, instead of being denounced (which is surely the aim), is made to seem commonplace. As a result, the last 50 years' moral, legal, philosophical, and historical efforts to preserve the "exceptionality" of that particular evil, because it did indeed constitute an "extraordinary" and symbolic extreme of inhumanity, are erased at a stroke by the goody-goodies who cheapen our collective memory with their exercises in self-advertisement. Simone Weil, who has kept her head while remaining justifiably outraged at what is going on in Bosnia, realises the risks. She told Le Figaro on Jan. 9 that "there is already enough emotion and tragedy to make it unnecessary to indulge in hazardous comparisons."

Are the firebrands who claim Jean Jaures as their model aware

M. KAHIL



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Christopher's visit will show course of U.S. policy

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

Domestic affairs, Iraq, and the plight of the 400 Palestinians in southern Lebanon dominated the topics in the Jordanian press in the past week.

Commenting on the creation of a Jordan-based centre to deal with matters related to human rights and democracy in the Arab World, a columnist in Al Ra'i said that such a centre would naturally be involved with forces opposing regimes in the Arab World.

Such contacts, which of course are aimed at finding out about human rights violations, would gain the centre the wrath of Arab regimes which would consider this as interference in their own affairs, said Mahmoud Rimawi.

He suggested that the proposed centre have its own identity and be operating as an independent, non-governmental organisation.

On the question of Abu Shakhsh, the criminal still at large, to whom were attributed several assassinations, some fatal, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab said that the security authorities should be open and frank about these crimes and should declare the truth about the situation.

Ahmad Dabbas demanded that the public be told about the facts and thus stop listening to rumours spread around by different circles about Abu Shakhsh's story.

His views were echoed by

in Al Dustour, who said that there have been numerous stories about stolen cars and assaults on citizens, and demanded that strict rules should be implemented and the culprits receive the harshest punishments possible.

The writer said that truth about criminal acts and robberies should be disclosed to the public who must also be instructed on means of helping the police in their work.

George Haddad, a columnist in Al Dustour, dwelt on the death of a mother and six of her children in the southern remote village of Marigha. The whole society is responsible for the death of this poor family and the concerned authorities ought to find means of helping others before they die of asphyxiation, said the writer.

It is a known fact that poverty does exist in the country, but it is also a fact that the Ministry of Social Development, the National Aid Fund and charitable organisations can provide heaters for the poor and protect them from the cold and death.

The Marigha tragedy was taken up by Nazih, a columnist in Al Ra'i. It should not take a high official in the government to find out about the poor families and their needs since such a task can and should be done by community leaders, a local teacher or a mosque preacher and even a nurse in

the region, the writer said. He said people suffering from abject poverty should be helped at the local level, but it is the duty of all citizens to bring their plight to the attention of the concerned authorities.

Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, took up the plight of Jordanians travelling to Egypt, noting that they have been frequently harassed by the Egyptian authorities at the borders and airports.

While Egyptian workers are treated well in Jordan and while Egyptian nationals are given facilities to work here, we find Jordanians treated harshly in Egypt, said the writer.

Jordanians are being interrogated for hours at Cairo airport and officials are not accorded the services that come under diplomatic protocols, he added.

Al Dustour and Sawt Al Shaab dailies commented, in their editorials, on Jordan's moves to bolster ties with the newly independent Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union, describing the visit by an official delegation to these countries as a step in the right direction.

The papers said that in these countries live more than 50 million Muslims and they are all anxious to strengthen their friendly ties with the Kingdom. Mohammad Kawash, a col-

mented on the continued sanctions imposed on Iraq by the Arab League and urged the Arab League secretary general to visit Baghdad to pave the way for ending the boycott.

The writer said that the Arab League secretary general should transcend Arab differences and take the initiative of bringing about reconciliation.

Now that Iraq has implemented all U.N. resolutions, said the writer, there can be no obstacles in the way of such a visit.

His views were supported by Taher Al Udwan who urged all Arab countries to seriously consider ending the sanctions on Iraq. The writer referred to Palestine President Yasser Arafat's visit to Baghdad as a single effort that should be copied by other leaders to bring about reconciliation among Arab capitals.

The Arab countries can start by releasing the frozen Iraqi assets and the seized Iraqi planes and can embark on plans that would pave the ground for ending other nations' sanctions on the Iraqi people, he said.

With reference to the coming visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Sawt Al Shaab said that the U.S. administration is sending Mr. Christopher in order to reach a compromise over the Middle East issue and save Israel from further embarr-

Any compromise can by no means be in line with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 and therefore would not satisfy the Palestinians and other Arabs, said the paper.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab said that Mr. Christopher's tour will reveal to the Arabs the truth about the U.S. administration's position with regard to the implementation of all U.N. resolutions.

Salameh Ekour said that through his talks with the Arab leaders, Mr. Christopher could be disclosing President Clinton's plans not only with regard to the 415 Palestinians deported to southern Lebanon but also to the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

It is, however, regrettable to see the Arab parties not in agreement on the U.S.-Israeli stand with regard to a compromise solution to the ordeal of the deported men, notably Egypt's position which is conflicting with those of the other confrontation states, said the writer. He said that a unified stand is badly needed in this and other matters to deal with the Palestine question.

Khaled Mahadeen, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that if Washington succeeded in persuading the Arab parties to resume the negotiations with Israel without solving the deportees' question the talks would not pave the ground for any success.

has proved, over the past decades, that it does not respect others' views and continues to hold on to its own intransigent position, refusing to implement any of the Security Council resolutions.

The writer said that Warren Christopher should realise the deep-rooted indignation in the hearts of the Arab masses resulting from the injustice served to this region through the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

Sultan Al Hattab, another Al Ra'i columnist, cautioned the Arabs and the Palestinians to be careful while dealing with Warren Christopher. Mr. Christopher's coming tour is serious and of a delicate nature because, he said, it is aimed at sounding out the Arab parties' views concerning the resumption of peace negotiations and the compromise solution over the tragedy of the 415 Palestinians.

Fahad Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the Arabs who are not satisfied with the U.S.-Israeli compromise offer should not reject the idea of resuming talks with Israel. The writer said it is clear that Washington's declared compromise solution over the tragedy of the 415 Palestinians stranded in southern Lebanon was a way to circumvent Resolution 799, but the Arab parties should not give Israel a

هكذا من الأمل

Journalists welcome Senate move

(Continued from page 1)

the freedom of the press established by non-JPA members said, however, that "we have never had to abide by the JPA law," which, she said, is not binding to non-JPA members.

And even if the law applies to them, she said, non-JPA members will continue to have the right to work as journalists because the law defines a journalist as he or she who is practising the profession.

JPA and non-JPA member journalists have been engaged in a fierce confrontation, lobbying Parliament to adopt their conflicting views on the definition of journalists.

The JPA wants the law to restrict recognition of journalists to its members "in order to protect and regulate the profession."

Non-JPA members argue that forcing them to join what they call "an inefficient organisation" is an encroachment on their basic right to free association.

While the JPA labelled the campaign against restricting recognition of journalists to JPA members "suspicious, poisonous and malicious," a member of the committee for the freedom of the press said the JPA has been a "failure and should be ashamed of itself for its campaign to force journalists to join it."

Members of the committee also blamed the association for ignoring what they consider articles stifling the freedom of the press, concentrating on the definition of journalists to serve its own purposes.

The draft press publication law will be sent back to the House after the Senate votes on it; signals from the Senate indicate that deputies will amend article 2 of the draft legislation in favour of non-JPA members.

Representatives of the House's various blocs told the Jordan Times last week that they would support broadening the definition of journalists to include non-JPA members.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Hammam Said said Friday his 22-strong bloc would move a proposal to that effect and many deputies told the Jordan Times they will support the motion.

But even if the draft legislation is not amended to recognise them, non-JPA members say they will remain defiant.

"Nothing short of arresting me will stop me from working," said Al Hayat Arabic daily correspondent in Jordan Salameh Ne'matt. And under the new democratic environment, Mr. Ne'matt did not expect the government to take such a step.

Bakers seek top-level intervention

(Continued from page 1)

we enjoy today, we are definitely hoping it would not be necessary for us to exercise that right," Mr. Hamawi said.

No government comment was

immediately available.

Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf told the Jordan Times last week that the government rejected the bakers' assertions but that it was ready to discuss their complaints in good faith.

Afghan guerrillas attack army posts

(Continued from page 1)

problems. The U.N. should help us like in Somalia."

A defence ministry spokesman said the government was consolidating advances made a day earlier against Hezb-e-Wahdat strongholds in the west.

The army captured a Hezb-e-Wahdat headquarters in the Social Sciences Institute as well as three other bases and two hills where Hezb-e-Wahdat had placed rocket batteries, a defence ministry spokesman said.

At least 24 civilians were killed in Thursday's fighting but hospit-

als said the figure could be much higher as most dead are not taken to hospitals.

Mr. Hekmatyar is fighting to oust Rabbani, accusing him of rigging his election last December. He has refused to stop unless Mr. Rabbani agrees to elections within a year and the formation of an interim government acceptable to all parties.

In an attempt to take power, Mr. Hekmatyar launched an attack on Kabul last August in which 2,500 people were killed and thousands injured. He has since attacked the city intermittently.

Palestinians seek U.N. formula

(Continued from page 1)

"The manner of implementation is up to the Security Council," she said.

Mr. Christopher leaves Washington Wednesday for a five-country tour of the Middle East, his first, to resurrect the floundering peace talks. His first stop Thursday is Egypt, the only Arab country at peace with the Jewish state and arguably Washington's best Arab friend.

But Foreign Minister Amr Musa gave notice Friday that there was more to talk about than friendship. He said the first priority for Egyptian leaders in discussions with Mr. Christopher would be the crisis over the Israeli expulsions.

It is a question certain to dominate: Mr. Christopher's tour, also taking him to Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.

"The visit will come in conditions that threaten the (Arab-Israeli) peace process," Mr. Musa said.

He made clear the burning

issue for Egypt and the Arabs is to have all the expelled repatriated as a prelude to resuming Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"The pressing, urgent and dangerous problem is that of the deportees," Mr. Musa said. "It will head the list of questions to be discussed with the U.S. secretary of state."

"Then there will be the resumption of the peace process as well as bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States."

"The deportees must be repatriated as soon as possible," Mr. Musa said. "Israel's offer is a step in the right direction... but it is insufficient."

To fully implement demands of the Security Council, "it is important that the deportees be repatriated over a short time span," Mr. Musa said.

He reiterated his belief that Arab-Israeli peace talks would not be resumed until April.

Underscoring the linkage between the expellees and the negotiations, Mr. Musa said: "Between now and April we should be able to end the deportee problem and at the same time prepare carefully for resumption of the peace process."

Washington is also trying to defuse the tension with the Arabs by suggesting the president of the Security Council privately tell Israel it was moving in the right direction with the expelled Palestinians, diplomatic sources said.

The proposed formula came up in a meeting at a New York hotel between Mr. Peres and Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said the two sources.

Charges filed

(Continued from page 1)

my sunglasses," Captain Goedel said.

The jet landed at Kennedy at 3:50 p.m. (2150 GMT) and taxied to a remote area of the airport. Twenty minutes later, the gunmen gave the gun to the captain, who held it up to the plane's window to show officers outside. Mr. Goedel took off his sunglasses and handed them to the hijacker.

When he surrendered, the hijacker left behind the hat and a note for the pilot, said James M. Fox, head of the FBI's New York office. The note read: "Thank you. Here's yours. Tschuss" — German for "so long."

"The captain was supercool. The passengers were supercool," said Fedor Gouverneur, a passenger from Venezuela. "I think we all had the same fear."

Evitees call for American help

(Continued from page 1)

a few hours after they emerged from their soaked shelters in the first sunny day in a weeklong snow storm.

Some of them headed for a nearby stream to clean their clothes. Others were heating water to wash their heads.

As the expellees slipped into their daily routine, about 5,000 Lebanese and Palestinian sympathisers demonstrated in east Lebanon's ancient town of Baalbek, declaring solidarity with the expelled men.

"Death to Israel and its master, America," chanted the demonstrators as they marched in the streets of Baalbek before prayers.

Bearded members of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah led the protest in Baalbek, their major stronghold in Lebanon.

Similar demonstrations were organised in Beirut and other Lebanese cities.

The Palestinian evitees also demanded Friday that Israel renounce expulsions as a policy to allow a solution of the crisis over their fate.

They welcomed a statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that expulsion was an exception to the Jewish state's policy.

"We consider this stand as a clear retreat in Israeli policy but it is not enough," said Dr. Rantisi.

However, Mr. Peres ruled out any softening of Israel's terms for the evitees' return after talks with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali and the Security Council president in New York.

Thursday. "We have announced that deportation is not a policy of Israel but an exception to the policy, and if the deportees will decide to remain where they are out of their own will, it will be an entirely different story," Mr. Peres said Thursday.

Dr. Rantisi said: "We want Israel to declare it denounces this mass expulsion and considers it illegitimate and to clearly tell the Security Council... it will not resort to deportation again."

"Then we will have a positive stand."

The president of the Security Council, Moroccan Ambassador Ahmad Snoussi, was expected to tell Israel's U.N. envoy soon the offer to take back some evitees was a good first step but further action was needed, council sources said Thursday.

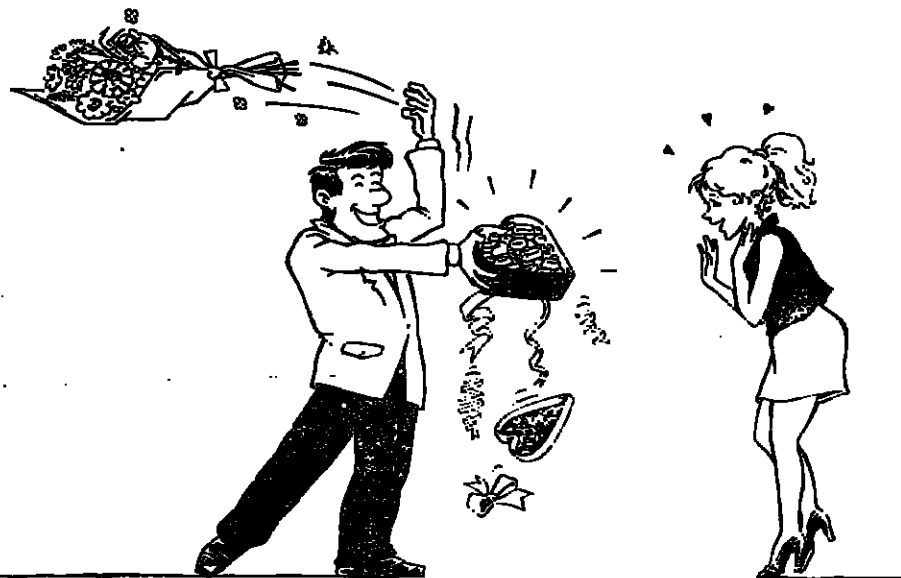
However, Mr. Peres said in an interview with Israeli army radio Friday that Israel would not further soften its conditions for the Palestinians' return.

"What I can say with certainty is that what the government decided is not up for further negotiations and it is not open to softening or change," he told the radio in a telephone interview from New York.

"I do not think the United States expects additional steps and I think the United Nations also understands that's the red line," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres said the Israeli compromise offer was "rather consistent with Resolution 799," which demands the immediate return of all evitees.

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Atletico hope new coach brings better luck

MADRID (AP) — Atletico Madrid is hoping new coach Argentine manager Hector Cuper can bring better fortune to the troubled team when it travels to face Barcelona on Saturday.

Cuper got the job after his previous team, Estudiantes, was relegated following Barcelona's 5-0 thrashing of the Madrid side less than two weeks ago.

The Argentine, who has coached and played successfully in Spain, has taken over an Atletico team that has fallen from being a title contender to seventh place in the 20-team division and has become leader Deportivo La Coruna by nine points.

"I have just arrived and am going to get to know the team," Cuper said. He was introduced to reporters. "My work is to get Atletico into the position it deserves."

He said he was unbothered by Atletico's 10th coach in the last 10 years, although he was not immediately revealed.

The suspension took Sevilla and Deportivo by surprise, with players from both sides saying the kick was obviously accidental.

Gijon, Espanol is at Cadiz, Zaragoza is at Oviedo, Athletic Bilbao travels to Madrid to play rays Valencia, Logrones is at Celta, Valencia is at Sevilla, Albacete is at Real Sociedad and Burgos is at Tenerife.

Sitting four points behind Deportivo and two behind Real Madrid, Barcelona has slipped in recent weeks, falling into third.

Real enters Sunday's game apparently having found consistent form under coach Benito Floro and without having conceded a point at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid this season.

In another of the weekend's top games, Sevilla will keep the services of Diego Maradona, whose one game suspension for kicking Deportivo defender Alberto Aldastegi in the head during last week's match was repealed.

An appeals committee of the Spanish Federation reduced the suspension to a fine and reprimand, although the amount of the fine was not immediately revealed.

The suspension took Sevilla and Deportivo by surprise, with players from both sides saying the kick was obviously accidental.

Lillehammer starts countdown for 1994 Winter Olympics

OSLO (AP) — Norwegians joke that, as good hosts, they may have to share a few gold medals with their guests at the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer.

After 20 Olympic medals in Albertville a year ago — only Germany and the disbanded Unified Team of former Soviet athletes did better — euphoria still rages among 4.3 million Norwegians, and expectations for Lillehammer are almost frightening.

Thousands of Norwegians with flags painted on their faces, banners waving, bells changing and hopes high will turn out in Lillehammer.

"The result in Albertville planted enormous expectations in the Norwegian people. Usually, the home court is an advantage, but because of all the pressure it could hurt," said Martin Burkhalter, vice president for sports at the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee.

Because the games start just two years after Albertville, Norway's team should include 1992 stars, like Alpine skier Kjetil Andre Aamodt and Finn Jagge, both Olympic gold medalists. And triple gold winners Vegard Ulvang and Bjorn Dahi, who dominated Nordic skiing, and winning speed skater Johan Olav Koss.

"We will have a group that did well before," Burkhalter said. "We are preparing the same way we prepared for Albertville."

Norway's national pride was at stake as it prepared for Albertville. At the Calgary Games, four years earlier, the unthinkable happened: For the first time, Norway a traditional powerhouse in Nordic skiing and speed skating — did not win a winter Olympic gold medal.

That humiliation inspired Olympiatoppen, a national programme in which a dozen major Norwegian businesses donated millions of kroner for bonuses, scholarships and top coaching. The programme pushed special terms for such things as compulsory military service, so an athlete at his peak would not spend a year marching instead of training.

Perhaps most important, it promoted the exchange of expertise between disciplines. "For example, rowers are experts on high altitude training. So we ask what use cross-country skiers can make of that," Burkhalter said.

Lillehammer Olympics at a glance

A quick look at the preparations for the 1994 Winter Olympics to be held in Lillehammer, Norway Feb. 12-28:

Where: Lillehammer, 180 kilometres north of Oslo, with other small towns around Norway's largest lake, Mjosa, and down the Gudbrandsdalen Valley in the Olympic Troll Park region. Lillehammer, population 23,000, is the second smallest Olympic host city. Lake Placid,



Olympic champion Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway clears a gate to take first place at the men's giant slalom at the Alpine World Ski Championships in Shizuka, Japan, Feb. 10 (AFP photo).

N.Y., 1980 Winter Games host, has smaller, skating rink that looks like an overturned Viking ship. In Hamar, 56 kilometres south of Lillehammer on Lake Mjosa.

The 6,000-seat Hamar Ice Rink for figure skating and short track speed skating.

What's left: The 5,500-seat Gjøvik Olympic Cavern Hall ice hockey venue, the biggest civilian structure ever built inside a mountain. In Gjøvik, 45 kilometres south of Lillehammer.

Railroad and highway projects; media and athletes' villages; press centres; Olympic flame cauldron; signs and temporary facilities; ceremonies.

How many: About 1,800 athletes and 1,200 officials from 75 countries, 57 gold medals, 7,000 journalists, 8,000 volunteers, 3,000 police, 100,000 spectators and 2 billion television viewers.

How much: The games are projected to cost about 7.2 billion kroner (\$1.05 billion), plus spending on regional infrastructure. Revenues: 2.5 billion kroner (\$357 million). The difference: 4.7 billion kroner (\$670 million) paid by the state and seen as long-term local investment.

Phases: Snow; winter sports expertise; national pride; indoor skating halls, refrigerated bobsled track; scenery; enthusiasm.

Minutes: Transportation; housing shortage; prices; possible protests against Norway's whale hunts; four warm winters out of past five.

U.S. Cup '93 schedule announced

CHICAGO (AP) — Brazil and Germany's June 10 clash in the U.S. Cup '93 has been scheduled for Washington's Robert F. Kennedy Stadium and the Brazil-England game has been pushed back a day until June 13 in Washington, the U.S. Soccer Federation has announced. The announcement completes the schedule for the second annual, four-team exhibition event, which will be used as a small practice for next year's World Cup.

Lendl eliminated, Becker advances

MILAN (AP) — Ivan Lendl and Richard Krajicek joined the list of departed seeds, joining top seeded Stefan Edberg, No. 5 Guy Forget and No. 6 Carlos Costa as spectators at the \$800,000 Muratti Time Indoor.

Australia's Wally Masur eliminated the fourth seeded Lendl 7-6 (7-1) 4-6, 6-4 in two hours and nine minutes while Sergi Bruguera knocked off Krajicek 6-4, 7-6 (9-7) in second round matches at the Milan Forum.

Edberg was eliminated by Omar Camporese Wednesday night. Forget fell to Jan Siemerink and Costa was downed by Stefano Pescosolido.

There were some surviving seeds, however. No. 2 Boris Becker defeated South African Wayne Ferreira in straight sets, 7-5, 6-3, and sailed into an all German quarterfinal against eighth seeded Michael Stich.

Stich struggled to a 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 victory against Russian Alexander Volkov.

Stich won the tie break 6-4 after Volkov spoiled a match point on 6-5.

Third seeded Czech Petr Korda also earned a quarterfinal berth making short work of Swiss Marc Rosset, 6-1, 6-4.

Becker, ranked 4th in the world, was off to a bad start as he lost his serve in the first game.

However, he made a counter-break in the tenth game and broke Ferreira again in the 12th game to win the first set in 52 minutes.

As Becker improved his play and fired passing shots from the baseline, Ferreira lost his serve again in the sixth game of the second set and the match in one hour and 40 minutes.

Masur, 29, who's expected to be included in the Australian team for next month's Davis Cup match against the United States, served well, played good backhand shots and took advantage of Lendl's unforced errors.

Lendl, the only American entry in the Milan Indoor, alternated good passing shots with an unusual series of mistakes from the baseline while his first serve was somewhat erratic.

Lendl, 33 next month, rallied in the second set, but Masur earned a decisive break in the 10th game of the third when Lendl hit two consecutive drives long.

The Silverdome in a game between Germany and England. The last game is expected to draw considerable attention with World Cup organisers scheduled to test the integrity of a grass field indoors at the very site that will be used as the first indoor World Cup game. World Cup organisers also expect to check security, media accreditation, game operations and other necessary functions required for the World Cup.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Complete projects rather than start them this morning. Good news comes from a friend overseas. Dinner plans may change abruptly, but all turns out nicely.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You now see how you can utilise some new conditions to your advantage but it is important that you put some proven methods into such advanced plans.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are eager to have a greater abundance and in order to do so its time you spend more time with those who have made a success of their lives.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take time out to see and to be with good friends who have the lifestyle that appeals to you and you get some good ideas on how to emulate their example.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get out in the world and be with those who have made their life very prosperous and find out from them what you can do to be equally so.

LEOS: (July 22 to August 21) This is the day for you to get into whatever progressive interests and activities attract and appeal to you for you soon make them to your benefit.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your hunches are unusually accurate and you can follow them with the assurance that good results will follow in big plans that animate you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Forget that holding back while you balance what is best to be done and go along with the views of a brilliant associate who is quick in action.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) Forget that holding back while changes interest you where any labour or other activities are concerned and you can achieve and accomplish big results.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 to December 21) Whatever pleasures and entertainment you want to be a part of your life can be worked out to your advantage so avoid the drab, get into the exciting.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A whole new attitude and wellbeing can be obtained at your residence now by putting in a new course of action that can last for sometime, has modern changes.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A day to look at what you are doing in the outside world and with usual allies and to handle routines so you have a greater amount of productivity.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take some time out now to think about just what you can do by adopting new methods and up to date systems where your financial affairs are concerned.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I need to get some hipper clothes. You know, like the ones they wear on The Brady Bunch!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LOFAR
COUPH
KLINTE
SHABIN

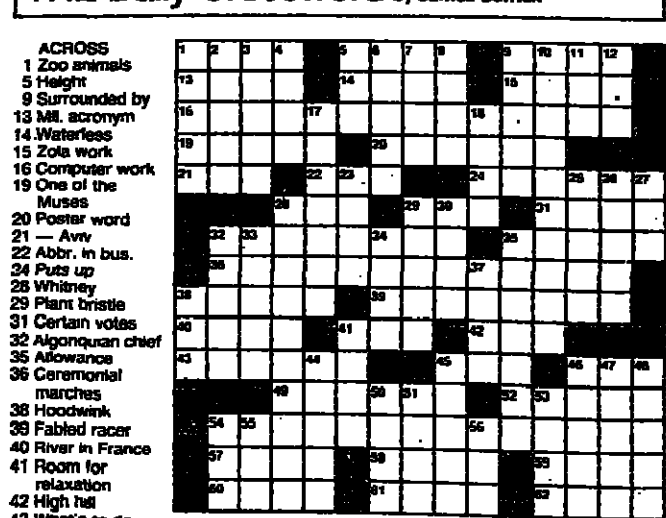


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: ROUSE DERBY BANGLE FAULTY
Answer: What the tired crook got after his arrest — A REST

THE Daily Crossword by James Barrick



ACROSS
1 Zoo animals
5 Height
9 Surrounded by
13 Mt. acronym
14 Waterless
15 Zola work
16 Computer work
19 One of the Muses
20 Poetic word
21 Ave
22 Abbr. in bus.
24 Put up
26 Whiney
29 Plant bristle
31 Certain votes
32 Algonquian chief
35 Allowance
36 Ceremonial marches
38 Hoodwink
39 Fabled racer
40 River in France
41 Room for relaxation
42 High bid
43 What's to do
45 Certain amt.
46 Depot abbr.
49 Split
52 Consumed
54 Modern-day typing
57 — Odeu (prayer desk)
58 First father
59 Wild plum
60 Stern
61 Becomes solid
62 Region: abbr.

DOWN
1 Student in uniform
2 Attentive
3 Kind of recast
4 Louver
5 Swiss river
6 Press
7 Transparent
11 Hotel
12 Hammarajold of the UN
17 Bluefish
18 British gun
23 Prison sentence
25 Embers
26 Short and to the point
27 Dashed letters
28 Selfish
29 Fiery factory
30 Ditch in a stream
32 Shoot
33 Come to be
34 Bone: prof.
35 Gets some shut-eye
37 Patronymic name
38 — fault (excessively)
41 Mosaic
44 Follows
45 Decorative transfer
46 Set of steps over a fence
47 Character
48 Make crosses
50 Yacht
51 Fish deposit
53 Helper: abbr.
54 Depression org.
55 Sail
56 Letters

JOBS OPPORTUNITY

SKF Intertrade S.A. Regional Office in Amman applies to employ a Jordanian with the following qualifications:

Technical background/preferably mechanical engineer.
Experience in sales of industrial spare parts.
Ability to travel in the Middle East.
Excellent knowledge of the English language.
Basic knowledge about working with P.C.s
Age: Between 25 and 40.
Please send your CV with references to:
P.O. Box 900651
Amman

SKF Intertrade is the part of the SKF Group responsible for sales and warehousing of the SKF products for the Middle East and Africa.

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Antique furniture, artwork, carpets...

Sèvres Gallé Bronze

Articles on sale will be exhibited daily

Starting Monday 14.2.1993 at 10:00 a.m.

Auction will be held daily at 5:00 p.m.

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Shad Al Masri, tel. 622617/638031

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HINSON
PLAYING WITH OPEN CARDS

South vulnerable, South deals.
NORTH
♠ A 2
♥ K 10
♦ A Q J 9 6 2
♣ A 10 8
EAST
♠ Q J 10 7 4
♥ A 8 6 5
♦ K 9 7
♣ A 5 4 3 2
SOUTH
♠ K J 9 8 3
♥ A 7 6
♦ K 10 9 8 7
♣ A 10 7

South bids 1♣, South deals. 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Russia tentatively welcomes U.S. initiative for former Yugoslavia

MOSCOW (R) — Russia tentatively welcomed U.S. President Bill Clinton's peace initiative for former Yugoslavia Friday and said Moscow already had a special envoy in place to help the search for peace.

"Any additional initiatives that could help make the search for peace more active on the basis of proposals by international mediators are welcomed by Russia," Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergei Yastzhenbysky told a news briefing.

The Clinton administration announced Wednesday limited steps to resolve the conflict by diplomatic means, including the appointment of a special envoy, Reginald Bartholomew.

Asked whether Russia would appoint its own special envoy to help bring peace, Mr. Yastzhenbysky said it already had one, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin.

He said Mr. Churkin's status was equivalent to that of Mr. Bartholomew.

He said Russia viewed Mr. Churkin's mission in the Yugoslavia talks as so important that it had always considered him as representative of the Russian leadership.

"I don't know when he was formally appointed the president's representative," the spokesman said.

Mr. Yastzhenbysky said Mr. Churkin would represent Russia at peace talks in New York on Feb. 17.

"We consider that Russia has long been, is now, and will be heavily involved in this process," Mr. Bartholomew, the U.S. ambassador to NATO, was flying to Moscow Friday. Mr. Yastzhenbysky said he would meet

Mr. Churkin and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, probably Saturday morning.

Mr. Bartholomew told Reuters in Brussels Thursday that the aim of his Moscow meetings would be "to develop and maintain the cooperative relationship that is important on this issue."

Mr. Churkin, 40, has served at the Soviet embassy in Washington and speaks fluent English. He was Mr. Yastzhenbysky's predecessor as ministry spokesman and was close to former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

He has concentrated on the Balkans over the past few months, making several visits to the region.

Fighting relaxes in Sarajevo

Meanwhile the warring parties in Bosnia relaxed their grip on beleaguered Sarajevo Friday after the Bosnian capital was rocked by some of the worst fighting of the 10-month civil war.

A French soldier died early Friday from injuries he and three compatriots suffered the day before in Sarajevo when a mortar bomb ripped into their armoured vehicle.

Another of the soldiers, serving with the United Nations Protection Force in Former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), was in critical condition, French military sources said in Paris.

The latest fighting came after the Bosnian government said it would accept no more humanitarian aid for Sarajevo until the U.N. succeeds in getting supplies to 100,000 people cut off by Serb forces in eastern Bosnia.

Heavy fighting involving mortars,

machine guns and small arms broke out in the city centre early in the morning after a night of steady shooting in the besieged city.

But the fighting died down 30 minutes later and sun-drenched Sarajevo became eerily quiet, apart from the occasional sniper plying his deadly trade in Novo Sarajevo district, local reporters said.

Fighting was also reported elsewhere in Bosnia, particularly near Bratunac on the border with Serbia.

In Croatia the situation was tense amid reports of artillery battles near the port city of Zadar and central Croatian towns of Gospić and Karlovac.

Friday's fighting in Sarajevo came a day after some of the heaviest battles between rival Serbs, Croats and Muslims since rebel Serbs rejecting Bosnian independence laid siege to the city last April.

Fighting was particularly fierce around the airport, the life-line for Sarajevo's 380,000 stranded residents.

U.N. operations at the airport stopped as U.N. workers and soldiers fled for cover. A plane which flew in to pick up 14 wounded and sick children was almost hit by a mortar round and left immediately before taking anyone aboard.

A special envoy of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Belgrade confirmed that the Bosnian government was refusing to accept humanitarian aid for the time being.

"They're not permitting any aid to be distributed and we're unloading (the supplies) into the warehouse," envoy Jose Maria Mendeluci told reporters.

He said the local leaders in the besieged town of Tuzla in eastern Bosnia were threatening to join the boycott to show solidarity with Muslim villages denied U.N. relief supplies.

Mr. Mendeluci blamed Serbs for preventing supplies from getting to Muslim villages in eastern Bosnia. U.N. officials have accused the Serb forces of launching a new campaign of "ethnic cleansing" to force Muslims out of the region.

The French trooper's death Friday brought to 12 the number of French troops killed in former Yugoslavia, and to 27 the total number of UNPROFOR deaths.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Thursday recommended only a six-week renewal of U.N. peacekeepers in Croatia to give negotiators time to repair a year-old peace treaty blown apart in recent fighting.

The UNPROFOR in Croatia has been nearly paralysed since Croatia's army on Jan. 22 began to bombard Serb-dominated areas under U.N. protection.

In retaliation Serbs broke into U.N.-guarded storage areas to remove their heavy weapons and blamed peacekeepers for their casualties. UNPROFOR's mandate expires on Feb. 21.

In a report to the Security Council, Dr. Ghali said the council had the option of renewing the mandate without change, could give UNPROFOR more enforcement power in Croatia, or could pull the troops out completely.

But he said none of the options were feasible under the current stalemate and proposed Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, co-chairman of the conference on the former Yugoslavia, find a way out of the impasse.



Bianca Jagger (centre), former Miss-Nicaragua and representative of the American non-governmental humanitarian organisation Equality Now, greets Muslim refugee girls from embattled Bosnia.

Herzegovina. The refugees found shelter in Camp Resnik, at the immediate vicinity of the Croatian capital, Zagreb (AFP photo).

Angola rebels reportedly seize Huambo

LUANDA (R) — The Angolan government said its troops were fighting desperately Friday to stop UNITA rebels from seizing the second city of Huambo.

Diplomats in Luanda said it could fall within 48 hours.

"The situation is fluid but it looks very bleak for the government," it is plausible that UNITA could take control within the next two days," a Western diplomat told Reuters.

In Lisbon, diplomats said Huambo may already have fallen and the government was on the verge of military collapse.

Aid workers said thousands of wounded were trapped in the central highland city, where the government and UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rebels have been fighting for more than a month.

The battle is the centrepiece of the war which resumed after UNITA rejected its September electoral defeat and began to expel local authorities from 75 per cent of the country in violation of 1991

peace accords.

U.N. officials were trying to arrange a truce to allow mercy flights of food and medical aid to be flown into the city devastated by armour, artillery and air attacks.

But U.N. special representative Margaret Anstee has been unable to contact UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi whose whereabouts were unknown.

Rebel radio said UNITA forces had seized Huambo Airport and captured the riot police barracks after heavy fighting.

"The airport and the barracks have been under the total control of the armed forces for the liberation of Angola since early this morning," UNITA's Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel reported.

The government said its hard pressed troops were resisting a UNITA onslaught, which it said was led by white mercenaries in South African-made armoured cars.

"Fierce clashes have taken place on the outskirts of the

government palace and the military academy," it said in a statement carried on state radio.

Eleven UNITA rebels were killed and one captured, it said.

The diplomats said they believed UNITA was trying to capture Huambo, its former headquarters, to place itself in a position of strength at the negotiating table.

A second round of peace talks between the government and UNITA should have taken place in Addis Ababa Wednesday but was called off at the last minute by the rebels.

The Dutch Defence Ministry said Friday the Netherlands was pulling 14 of its 27 United Nations staff out of Angola following a recommendation by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Dr. Ghali recommended last month the U.N. pull back its personnel to the capital of Luanda and reduce staff to 64 down from a 714-strong operation. But Security Council members at the time were divided on whether to follow that recommendation.

Tutu rethinks stance on Pretoria sanctions

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu said Friday he was ready to call for the easing of anti-apartheid sanctions once a transitional administration is in place.

"The minute" such a transitional body was formed, Arch Tutu would be in touch with the U.S. government and say "that is our request... that (it) should be dealt with... and efficiently."

A trans... would help oversee the... minority rule, but would not have the full status of an... government.

A major... sanctions against South Africa and winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts against apartheid, Arch. Tutu spoke of his change in position in an interview with the Associated Press.

While Arch. Tutu's new stance could be an important factor, the influence of the African National Congress (ANC), the main black opposition group, is seen as the main factor on the future of sanctions. The ANC still supports sanctions.

Arch. Tutu originally called for fully fledged economic sanctions in April 1986. Five years later he said he would reconsider calling for the lifting of economic sanctions when the government takes effective steps to end political violence or when an interim government is elected, whichever comes sooner.

"I am certain that there are people who support our stance would support this refinement of it," Arch Tutu said.

"I am giving the assurance that I would be ready to write to President Clinton and say to him, give South Africa access to the

World Bank and to the IMF (International Monetary Fund) if a transitional arrangement acceptable broadly is concluded which would ensure multi-party control of the security forces," Arch Tutu said.

Western nations have eased some sanctions, but South Africa is barred from the World Bank and IMF loans, which it wants to help its economy, mired in the fourth year of recession.

"I want to see the end to apartheid and to see democracy happen and to see an end to the misery of our people," Arch. Tutu said. "That has always been my aim. Now I am saying we want to lift sanctions but only when those conditions (have been met). I have refined it now. I don't think you could say it more specifically, more exactly, more categorically."

Philippine volcano erupts again

LEGASPI, Philippines (R) — Mount Mayon in the Philippines erupted in rumbling clouds of superheated steam, smoke and ash Friday, prompting villagers at the base of the volcano to flee for their lives.

A series of explosions shook the crater of the volcano 330 kilometres south of Manila, spewing a mushroom cloud of ash and sand high into the sky.

A tumbling river of lava spilled out of the crater and cascaded down deep gullies cut in the southeast slope of the volcano.

Villagers who had refused to leave their homes and farms

around the foot of the mountain ran for their lives when a rumble and clouds of grey and black smoke signalled the start of the first eruption since 1984.

Nobody was reported injured, but volcanologists cautioned the eruption was only moderate so far and could get worse.

"We feel this will intensify in the next hours or days," volcano expert Leonila Bautista said.

More than 50,000 people living in the 10 kilometres danger area around the cone had already been evacuated to relief centres after a violent explosion last week burned more than 60 people to

death.

"We heard rumbling sounds. I thought it was just a rock fall so I told my companions to take it easy," said scientist Rolando Arboleda, who was on the slopes with two companions when the mountain came to life.

"But then we looked back. We saw dark clouds coming our way. We ran and never looked back after that to see what was happening," he said.

Reuter photographer Tim Alipalo was in the danger area with a team of volcanologists and fled with scores of villagers.

New York police: Hijacker was carrying a pistol with blanks

NEW YORK (AP) — The man who smuggled a gun aboard a Lufthansa jet and forced the plane to land in New York in the first trans-Atlantic hijacking in 16 years was wearing a starter's pistol that fired only blanks, authorities said.

No one was injured during the 11-hour ordeal, which began over Austria about 40 minutes into Thursday's flight. It ended when the Airbus 310 with 104 people aboard landed safely at Kennedy Airport and the hijacker surrendered.

Nebiu Zewelde Demeke, 20, an Ethiopian student living in Morocco, made two demands: That the plane be flown to New York and that he receive political asylum. Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Roche said. Initial reports that Mr. Demeke also demanded the United States intervene in Bosnia were false, Mr. Roche said.

Mr. Demeke was arraigned Friday on charges of air piracy, which carries 20 years to life in prison.

Flight 592 had taken off from Frankfurt, Germany, for Cairo, Egypt, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, when the hijacker stormed into the cockpit, pointed a gun at the pilot and said, "If you do not turn West, I'll shoot you," recalled the pilot, Gerhard Goedel.

Mr. Demeke had gotten the gun past security at Frankfurt Airport by hiding it under his hat and placing the hat on a table as he passed through a metal detector, then picking up the hat as he headed for the plane, a law enforcement source said on condition of anonymity.

The gun turned out to be a starter's pistol that fired only blanks, police spokesman Sgt. John McCluskey said.

In the tense hours that followed the takeover, the hijacker threatened a flight attendant and several passengers and the captain struck a deal with him. "I said that if he would give me the gun, I would give him my sunglasses," Capt. Goebel said.

The jet landed at Kennedy at 3:50 p.m. (20:50 GMT) and taxied to a remote area of the airport. Twenty minutes later, the gun-

man gave the gun to the captain, who held it up to the plane's window to show officers outside. Capt. Goebel took off his sunglasses and handed them to the hijacker.

When he surrendered, the hijacker left behind the hat and a note for the pilot, said James M. Fox, head of the FBI's New York office. The note read: "Thank you. Here's yours. Tschuss" German for "so long."

"The captain was supercool. The passengers were supercool," said passenger Feodor Gouverneur of Stuttgart, Germany. "I think we all had the same fear."

The last time a hijacked plane crossed the Atlantic was in September 1976, the FAA said. Five Croatian nationalists forced a New York-to-Chicago TWA flight to Paris, where they surrendered.

The Lufthansa jet carried 94 passengers, including seven Americans, along with Japanese, Egyptians, Germans and one Canadian, airline spokesman Jim Freeman said. There were 10 crew members.

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Mitterrand reviews troops, urges Cambodian peace

ANGKOR WAT, Cambodia (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand visited French peacekeeping troops in Cambodia Friday to show support for an ambitious United Nations peace plan being hampered by Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

He and Defence Minister Pierre Jose visited French soldiers in the northwestern town of Siem Reap. Some 1,500 French troops are among 22,000 peacekeepers sent to Cambodia to help prevent fighting and prepare for May elections.

Mr. Mitterrand, who was given a tour by Prince Norodom Sihanouk of the ancient Khmer temples of Angkor near Siem Reap, urged the Khmer Rouge, two other guerrilla groups and the government to stick to the peace plan they signed in 1991.

French military mine-clearing experts, pilots, police and others helping build roads and ports explained their jobs to Mr. Mitterrand, who made a ground-breaking three-day visit to Viet-

nam before flying to Cambodia Thursday.

One French officer described how his men were training 360 Cambodians to clear some of the millions of mines laid by the Khmer Rouge. Cambodian farmers missing one or two legs because of mines are a familiar sight.

The Khmer Rouge is the only signatory of the Paris accord which has refused to disarm and take part in elections.

Mr. Mitterrand flew from Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam later Friday, where he changed planes and left for France. He has offered rare Western support, both economic and political, to Vietnam's Communist government.

While in Hanoi he urged President Bill Clinton to lift the embargo Washington imposed on Hanoi in 1964 — a decade after French colonial rule over Indochina ended and a year before the United States sent in troops on a large scale to fight its own

unsuccessful war.

Mr. Mitterrand announced that French aid to Vietnam would double this year and France would try to help Hanoi get loans from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Sources close to his delegation said French aid for Vietnam would reach about 300 million francs (\$53 million) this year.

While the World Bank and IMF praise free-market reforms that are fuelling growth in Vietnam, Washington blocks loans from the institutions.

Mr. Mitterrand said France, which ruled Vietnam for almost a century, wanted to close the chapter on a sometimes painful past and be the first Western country to help Vietnam get the technology, money and cultural support it needed.

On Wednesday he visited Dien Bien Phu where Vietnamese forces led by General Vo Nguyen Giap defeated an elite French army unit in 1954, bringing an end to colonial rule.

Gen. Giap sat next to Mr. Mitterrand at a banquet in Hanoi Tuesday that was hosted by Vietnamese President Le Du Anh, another former general who spent his military career fighting against first the French, then the Americans.

Diplomats said Mr. Mitterrand's visit to Vietnam, a rival of Cambodia's for centuries, appeared to irritate Prince Sihanouk, the Cambodian head of state.

But they said Mr. Mitterrand's trip to Phnom Penh and Siem Reap was meant to press the Khmer Rouge and others to push ahead with the U.N. peace plan and show French support for Prince Sihanouk's central role.

Mr. Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission, told Mr. Mitterrand during his visit that the peace agreement which France helped to broker was still valid even though the U.N. had been forced to make modifications.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Major wins 1st round in libel case

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major Friday won a first victory in a libel case he brought against a news magazine that reported rumours of an extra-marital affair. BPCC Magazines (Colchester) Ltd, printers of the New Statesman And Society, and its distributors Comags and newsagent John Menzies apologized in the high court and paid undisclosed damage to Mr. Major and caterer Clare Latimer. The magazine itself has said it will contest libel actions brought separately by Mr. Major and Ms. Latimer following an article citing rumours that the two had had an affair. This has raised the prospect of Mr. Major being questioned in court over his private life. Last Friday Mr. Major rejected an expression of regret by the magazine. "The litigation continues until the New Statesman and the other defendants take a realistic view of the matter," a spokesman for the prime minister's solicitors said then. Ms. Latimer, 41, who was in court Friday, said: "I am pleased with the outcome so far, but I will carry on pursuing this. The other actions are continuing and I hope they get tidied up very quickly."

Yeltsin launches offensive on crime

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin said Friday that crime and corruption were corroding the Russian state from top to bottom and were the greatest danger facing the country. ITAR-TASS News Agency said. "Crime has become a problem number one," he told a special conference on crime in Moscow. "Crime has acquired such a scale and character that it poses great danger for individual people and for the whole Russian state." "Organised crime has become a direct threat to Russian national interests," Mr. Yeltsin said, adding that 40 per cent of private businessmen and two-thirds of private companies were linked to corruption. "Corruption in the organs of power and administration is literally corroding the state body of Russia from top to bottom," he said, according to TASS. Mr. Yeltsin was opening a high-level two-day meeting in Moscow aimed at mapping out a strategy to fight the crime epidemic.

Rwanda rebels claim bloody ambush

NGARAMA, Rwanda (R) — Rebels in Rwanda said they had killed about 250 government troops in an ambush on a convoy only hours after declaring a truce. In the capital Kigali, government sources said Friday more than half a million people had now fled four days of fighting in the north of the central African nation. Paul Kagame, military chief of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), said at his bush headquarters late Thursday his guerrillas attacked a convoy of four buses carrying reinforcements to the besieged northwestern town of Ruhengeri. "We completely destroyed three buses and killed around 250 government troops," Mr. Kagame told reporters. Many soldiers' bodies were burned in the ambush at Tumba, where the rebels are dug in near the Ruhengeri road 32 kilometres north of Kigali, he said. The government has not mentioned the attack. But the defence ministry Friday accused the RPF of launching other raids despite the rebel announcement Thursday of a halt in an offensive which broke an earlier ceasefire.

Catholic killed in N. Ireland attack

BELFAST (R) — A Roman Catholic father of four was killed and his one-year-old son injured when gunmen fired through the window of his home in County Armagh, police said. The 32-year-old man was identified as Thomas Molloy. His baby son was treated in hospital for minor injuries. Police said the man had been watching television with his wife and family near Loughgal when the attack occurred. No one claimed responsibility for the shooting, but it was thought to have been carried out by loyalist gunmen who have admitted to most of the killings in Northern Ireland this year. Security forces said Mr. Molloy had no paramilitary connections and seemed to be an innocent victim of a random killing. He was the 11th victim, nine of them civilians, to be murdered in Ulster this year.

Justices Brennan, Marshall receive awards

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Supreme Court Justices William Brennan Jr. and the late Thurgood Marshall, two friends whose careers spanned the civil rights era, were honoured for their contributions to a free press. The Freedom Forum, an international advocacy group for the cause of free speech and free press, conferred its free spirit awards on the two jurists, an honour accompanied by grants of \$100,000 each. "No Americans in the 20th century did so much for human rights as they did," remarked former Chief Justice Warren Burger in a letter to the awards dinner.

American wins World Press Photo prize

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — American photographer James Nachtwey won the World Press Photo Prize Friday for his picture of an emaciated Somali woman carrying a dead child to his grave. It was selected from 19,420 entries competing for the honour, one of the most prestigious in photojournalism. The photo, entitled Somalia, was shot on a desiccated field near Bardera last November for the Paris based Magnum Photos Agency and published in the French newspaper Liberation. The 15,000-guilder (\$8,100) annual award will be presented at a ceremony here April 27. The winners of the two other top awards in the competition were also Americans. Magnum photographer Eugene Richards won the Leica Oskar Barnack Award for best picture story with his series The Wetlands Of Northern Nigeria. Free-lance photographer Jan Sonnenmair won the Budapest Award for best expression of human emotion with A Legacy Of AIDS.

U.S. to begin AIDS vaccine tests

BOSTON (AP) — U.S. officials are set to begin nationwide tests to try to block the spread of AIDS from pregnant women to their offspring. Officials are optimistic that vaccines and injections of potent antibodies might block infection in some newborn infants. Dr. John L. Sullivan of the University of Massachusetts Medical Centre in Worcester, said Thursday. "Do I think we have the vaccine that's going to do the job? I don't think so," Dr. Sullivan said. But "it's very likely it could induce some protection."

COLUMN 1000000

British antarctic explorers decide to end trek

LONDON (R) — Two British explorers Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Dr. Michael Stroud have decided to end their attempt to make the first unsupported crossing of the Antarctic from ice shelf to ice shelf, organisers said. The pair, battling sickness, starvation and sub-zero temperatures, had already broken two endurance records. They made the first unsupported crossing of the antarctic continent on foot and the longest unsupported polar march. "They said there were more dead than alive when they radioed," said expedition spokesman David Harrison. "They are safe on a relatively less fearsome part of the Antarctic and we've been following their progress," he added. The men who have travelled 2,170 kilometres unaided, had just 460 kilometres left to reach Scott Base where a ship was waiting to take them home. Twin otter aircraft will lift Sir Ranulph, 48, and Dr. Stroud, 37, from the Ross Ice Shelf and will take them to a base camp where they will be examined to determine the effects of extreme conditions and stress.

Student fires 3 shots at teacher

FORT WORTH, Texas (R) — A 14-year-old student opened fire in a school classroom, taking three shots at a substitute teacher but missing each time, police said. The teacher was slightly injured when she fell while trying to escape her assailant, who remained at large, said Lieutenant M.C. Slayton of the Fort Worth Police Department's 10th Division. None of the roughly 20 students in the classroom were injured in the attack. The student had been suspended from William James Middle School Wednesday, and returned to the classroom the next day with a nine mm pistol. Lt. Slayton said.

Anti-theft device lands russian diners in the soup

MOSCOW (R) — State canteens in Chuvashia in central Russia have found a novel way of stopping guests stealing the spoons. They drill holes in them. Diners have to plug the holes with lumps of bread before they can drink their soup. ITAR-TASS News Agency reported, quoting the local newspaper Sovetskaya Chuvashia. Unfortunately the spoons keep disappearing — apparently they are now sought after as souvenirs.

Simon, Garfunkel together again for charity concert

LOS ANGELES (R) — Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel, one of the biggest duos in pop music history, will re-unite for a charity concert next month for the first time in a decade. Simon's publicist said. The concert, which will take place on March 1 at the 3,200-capacity Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles, is intended to raise \$1 million for a homeless children's charity that Simon founded in 1987, said publicist Debby Klein. The two-and-a-half hour show will also feature singer Neil Young and comedian Steve Martin. Tickets go on sale next Monday priced at \$100, \$300 or \$500 each. The reunion will be the third in 12 years for the pair whose hit songs like Bridge Over Troubled Water and The Sound Of Silence, sold by the millions. Simon and Garfunkel broke up acrimoniously in 1970 but got together for a free concert 11 years later in New York's Central Park. In 1983 they joined forces again for two concerts at Los Angeles' Dodger Stadium and New York's Shea Stadium.

Melodic fungus fairy wine will delight and cure

PEKING (R) — After years of painstaking research, a Chinese scientist has come up with a brew which he hopes will win over the world's connoisseurs of fine liquors: Fermented fungus "fairy wine". Xiao Helong, a biologist from central Sichuan province, spent years mashing together combinations of edible fungi, including hedgehog hydnium and straw mushrooms, trying to find an alternative to grain-based alcohol. "Agronomists, politicians and economists hoped for a miracle," the official China Daily said. Mr. Xiao finally worked his magic in 1989 and came up with "fairy circle liquid," which the China Daily described as an all-natural wine which will boost immunity to sickness.

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